Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-96-140
Friday
19 July 1996

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-96-140 *19 July 1996*

CONTENTS

NOTICE: An * indicates material that may not be disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Inter-Arab: 'Wave of Hatred' of U.S. Seen in Arab World *[London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI 17 Jul]* 1

Palestinian Affairs

Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat on Contacts With U.S., Peace, Netanyahu *[Cairo International]* .. 1
Palestinian Affairs: 'Urayqat Says 'Arafat-Levi Meeting 'Insufficient' *[Gaza TV]* 2
Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Adviser Demands Resumption of Talks *[Cairo Radio]* 2
Palestinian Affairs: Sha'th 'Optimistic' After Netanyahu Talks With Mubarak *[Jerusalem Radio]* 4
Palestinian Affairs: PA Hails Israeli Decision To Release Female Prisoners *[HA'ARETZ 19 Jul]* 4
Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Receives Economic Delegations, Urges Unity *[Gaza TV]* 4
Palestinian Affairs: Sanctions Urged if Israel Does Not Abide by Accords *[Jericho VOP]* 5
Palestinian Affairs: PA Official on Arab Summit *[AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH 17 Jul]* 5
Palestinian Affairs: Hamas Warns Jordan Against Torturing Supporters *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 7

Arab-Israeli Talks

Arab-Israeli Talks: Jordan's al-Kabariti, Netanyahu Comment on Meeting *[Amman TV]* 7
Arab-Israeli Talks: Mubarak-Netanyahu Meeting Pondered *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 18 Jul]* 9
Arab-Israeli Talks: Unchanged Israeli Stance 'Likeliest' Outcome of Cairo Trip *[AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI 18 Jul]* 9

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Algeria: FFS To Take Part in Meetings With President Zeroual *[Algiers Radio]* 11
Algeria: Political Leaders Give Impressions on Talks With President *[Algiers Radio]* 11
Algeria: Cartoonist Arrested; Newspaper Suspended *[EL WATAN 6 Jul]* 12

Egypt

Egypt: Mubarak, Israel's Netanyahu Hold News Conference *[Cairo Radio]* 12
Egypt: Musa Describes Netanyahu's Assurances as 'Step Forward' *[MENA]* 17
Egypt: Netanyahu Tours Cairo by Plane, Departs for Home *[MENA]* 17
Egypt: Israeli Flag Burned To Protest Netanyahu's Visit *[AFP]* 17
Egypt: Mubarak Views Talks With Netanyahu, Peace Prospects *[MENA]* 17
Egypt: Mubarak Briefs Syria's al-Asad on Talks With Netanyahu *[Cairo Radio]* 18
Egypt: Musa Comments on Netanyahu's Statement on Jerusalem *[MENA]* 18
Egypt: Cairo Press Takes 'Cautious View' on Netanyahu Visit *[MENA]* 19
Egypt: Tension, Unrest Feared Because of Likud Policy *[AL-AHRAM 12 Jul]* 21
Egypt: Interior Minister Says New Terrorist Plot Foiled *[MENA]* 23

Egypt: Mubarak's Talks in Turkey Detailed *[MENA]* 23
Egypt Prepares for Meeting of Front-Line States' Foreign Ministers *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 18 Jul]* 24
Egypt: U.S. Worried by Possible Egyptian-Syrian-Iranian Alliance *[AL-SHA'B 9 Jul]* 25
Egypt: Muslim Brotherhood Leader Interviewed *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 16 Jul]* 26

Morocco

Morocco: Paper Warns 'Separatists' Against Jeopardizing Peace Plan *[AL-'ALAM 14 Jul]* 29

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia: Progress Seen in Saudi Mediation Between Bahrain, Qatar *[London AL-HAYAH 17 Jul]* 31
Saudi Arabia: New Top Grade Oil Reserves Discovered South of Riyadh *[Riyadh Radio]* 31

Bahrain

Bahrain: Aide Satisfied With Saudi Mediation; No 'Real Progress' Yet *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 18 Jul]* 31
Bahrain: Opposition Reports on Continued Clashes, Arrests *[Voice of Bahrain WWW]* 31

United Arab Emirates

United Arab Emirates: Bosnian Soldiers Arrive for Training *[WAKH]* 32

Kuwait

Kuwait: Defense Minister, U.S. General Discuss Kuwaiti Security *[Kuwait TV]* 32
Kuwait: Ministry Official Briefs EU Envoys on Ministerial Meeting *[KUNA]* 32

United Arab Emirates

United Arab Emirates: Bosnian Soldiers Arrive for Training *[WAKH]* 32

Yemen

Yemen: Deputy Prime Minister Confers With Iraqi Ambassador on Ties *[Sanaa Radio]* 32

IRAQ

Iraq: UN Secretary General Approves Food Plan *[INA]* 33
Iraq: Ship Arrives at Umm Qasr Port With Wheat From Qatar *[Baghdad TV]* 33
Iraq: Saddam Establishes Sale Prices for Maize Seeds *[AL-'IRAQ 27 Jun]* 33
Iraq: Opposition Reports 'Udayy's Absence at Anniversary *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* 33
Iraq: Yeltsin Congratulates Saddam on Revolution Anniversary *[INA]* 33
Iraq: Turkish Warplanes Bomb Villages in Iraqi Kurdistan *[Voice of the People of Kurdistan]* 34
Iraq: Kuwaiti Boats 'Encroachment' on Waters Protested to UN *[INA]* 34
Iraq: Column Says Saudi Resistance to U.S. Presence To Continue *[AL-THAWRAH 1 Jul]* 34
Iraq: Arab League Chief Asserts Importance of Country's 'Power' *[INA]* 35
Iraq: Government Said To Request Return of Evacuated Airplanes *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 17 Jul]* 35
Iraq: 'Huge Explosion' Reported at al-Dawrah Refinery *[Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan]* 35
Iraq: AL-QADISIYAH on Reconstruction of al-Musayyib Power Station *[23 Jun]* 35

ISRAEL

Israel: Netanyahu Returns, Comments on Talks With Mubarak *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 36

Israel: Netanyahu Says Mubarak Not Trying 'To Dictate' to Israel *[Jerusalem TV]* 36
Israel: Netanyahu, Levi Extend Condolences Over TWA Explosion *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36
Israel: Link Between TWA Explosion, Islamic Groups Investigated *[HA'ARETZ 19 Jul]* 37
Israel: Egyptian, Jordanian, PA Envoys Address University Symposium *[Jerusalem Radio]* 37
Israel: Egyptian Envoy on Peace Process, Netanyahu Egypt Visit *[Jerusalem Radio]* 38
Israel: Measures To Ease Closure To Take Effect 21 Jul *[Jerusalem Radio]* 39
Israel: Weizman To Release 2 Female Palestinian Prisoners *[Jerusalem Radio]* 39
Israel: Peres Rejects Call To Bring Forward Labor 'Leadership Race' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 39
Israel: General Staff Said To Sense 'Hostility' From Netanyahu *[HATZOFE 18 Jul]* 39
Israel: Knesset Members Tour Hebron, Meet With Mayor, Settlers *[Jerusalem Radio]* 40
Israel: Immigration Committee Seeks Action on Issue of Iranian Jews *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 17 Jul]* 40
Israel: PA Police Accused of 'Illegal Activities,' Holding Israelis *[Jerusalem Radio]* 41

JORDAN

Jordan: Prime Minister Receives PLO's 'Abbas; Change in Israeli Tone Noted *[Amman Radio]* 42
Jordan: Royal Decree Summons Parliament for Extraordinary Session *[Amman Radio]* 42
Jordan: Bread Subsidies Distribution Mechanism Announced *[Amman Radio]* 42

SYRIA

Syria: Syrian-Lebanese Coordination Termed 'Best Model' for Arab States *[Damascus Radio]* 43
Syria: President al-Asad Attends Brother's Funeral *[SANA]* 43
Syria: Netanyahu Policy Seen To Kill Peace Process *[Damascus Radio]* 43

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Afghanistan: Rabbani, Iranian Envoy Hold Talks *[IRNA]* 45
Afghanistan: Memorandum Rejects Tajik Government Allegations *[Kabul Radio]* 45
Afghanistan: Rabbani, Hekmatyar, Sayyaf Attend High State Council *[Kabul Radio]* 46
Afghanistan: 5 Afghan Groups Form New Alliance *[Islamabad Radio]* 46
Afghanistan: Hezb-e Eslami Criticizes Parties for Not Joining Alliance *[Message of Freedom]* 47
Afghanistan: President Rabbani Meets Amnesty International Official *[Kabul Radio]* 47

Bangladesh

Bangladesh: President's Address to Parliament Reported *[THE DAILY STAR 15 Jul]* 47
Bangladesh: Foreign Minister on Resolving Ganges Water Sharing Problem *[DAINIK ITTEFAQ 12 Jul]* 49

India

India: Gujral Comments on U.S. Mediation on Kashmir *[INDIAN EXPRESS 16 Jul]* 50
India: Government Denies 'Last-Minute Change' on CTBT Stance *[THE HINDU 18 Jul]* 51
India: New Delhi Reports 'Increasing Public Pressure' To Sign CTBT *[THE PIONEER 18 Jul]* 51
India Remains Committed Against 'Discriminatory CTBT' *[INDIAN EXPRESS 18 Jul]* 52
India: Concern Expressed Over PRC's Military Preparations in Tibet *[NAVBHARAT TIMES 15 Jul]* 54
India: ICJ Ruling Against Nuclear First Use Supports Indian Policy *[THE TIMES OF INDIA 17 Jul]* 54
India: Increased Central Asian Ties for Security, Trade Urged *[INDIAN EXPRESS 16 Jul]* 56
India: GATT Accord 'Dropped a Bombshell' Concerning Intellectual Property *[THE TIMES OF INDIA 18 Jul]* 57

Iran

Iran: Majles Official Comments on U.S. Stand, Majles Priorities *[TEHRAN TIMES 14 Jul]* 58

Iran: Editorial on 'Indifference' Toward U.S.-Israeli 'Bullying' *[TEHRAN TIMES 14 Jul]* 59
Iran: Commentary Assesses U.S. Sanctions, Presidential Election *[Tehran International]* 59
Iran: Canadian Embassy Expresses Concern About Trade Embargo *[IRNA]* 60
Iran: Foreign Ministry Source Denies Border Clash With Turkey *[London AL-HAYAH 18 Jul]* 60
Iran: Joint Communique Issued at End of Turkmen President's Visit *[IRNA]* 60
Iran: Radio Questions West's Motives, Uzbek Role in Afghanistan *[Tehran International]* 61
Iran: Papaer Calls For Islamic Summit To Confront Netanyahu *[TEHRAN TIMES 11 Jul]* 61
Iran: Ministerial Meeting in Muscat Viewed as 'Zionist Gathering' *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 14 Jul]* 62
Iran: Editorial Views Foreign Policy, Fight Against U.S., Israel *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 14 Jul]* 63
Iran: 'Secret' Tehran Meeting Discusses Plans To Attack U.S. Targets *[MA'ARIV 19 Jul]* 64
Iran: Paper Exposes Iranian Terror Network *[MA'ARIV 28 Jun]* 65
Iran: Ayatollah Emami-Kashani Delivers Tehran Friday Prayers *[Tehran Radio]* 66
Iran: Nateq-Nuri Interviewed on Comments, Parties *[ABRAR 9 Jul]* 67
Iran: Paper Views Election, Crime *[RESALAT 3 Jul]* 70
Iran: Economic Control, Currency Rate Viewed *[SALAM 14 Apr]* 71
Iran: SALAM Demands Information on Fate of Iranian Hostages *[SALAM 4 Jul]* 83
Iran: Paper Details Provincial Development Projects *[KHORASAN 3 Jul]* 84

Nepal & Bhutan

Nepal: Japan Provides Grant as Debt Relief Measure *[Tokyo KYODO 18 Jul]* 85
Nepal: Government Reportedly Unable To Control Indian Border Trade *[THE KATHMANDU POST 15 Jul]* 85
Nepal: NRMA Denounces 15 Percent Sales Tax *[THE KATHMANDU POST 15 Jul]* 86

Pakistan

Pakistan: Spokesman—CTBT Signing To Be Guided by National Interests *[Islamabad Radio]* 86
Pakistan: Islamabad To Oppose Change in CTBT Articles *[THE NATION 18 Jul]* 86
Pakistan: CTBT Signature Subject To 'Retention of 2 Major Provisions' *[THE MUSLIM 18 Jul]* 87
Pakistan: Foreign Office Denies Claims of Taleban Defector *[THE NEWS 17 Jul]* 89
Pakistan: Ministries Studying Phased Free Trade With India *[BUSINESS RECORDER 17 Jul]* 89

Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka: Police Arrest 2 LTTE 'Top Operatives' in Colombo *[DAILY NEWS 16 Jul]* 90
Sri Lanka: LTTE Accuses Troops of Shooting on Civilians in Jaffna *[Tamil Eelam News WWW]* 90

Inter-Arab Affairs

Inter-Arab: 'Wave of Hatred' of U.S. Seen in Arab World

MM1707154596 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 17 Jul 96 p 15

[Editorial: "Stabbing Americans in Cairo"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A female American employee was stabbed to death in front of a famous hotel in central Cairo three weeks after the al-Khubar blast, which targeted a building used by U.S. troops and resulted in 19 deaths and hundreds of wounded.

The Egyptian Government accused the person who stabbed the American of being mentally disturbed, saying that his arrest had been sought to return him to hospital. It said the same thing about Sulayman Khatir, the Egyptian soldier who fired at a group of Israelis who had encroached on Egyptian sovereignty at a border post in the Sinai desert.

Obviously, many inside and outside Egypt will suspect such interpretations and justifications, because it is not reasonable for a "madman" to [randomly] kill an American out of all the people in front of a hotel full of tourists of all nationalities, especially as the U.S. Embassy in Cairo has admitted that the murdered lady was an official employee on a special mission in Egypt for a limited period, without specifying the nature of this mission — which arouses numerous questions.

The clear fact the Egyptian Government is trying to conceal is that there is a wave of hatred toward the Americans on the Arab scene, in Egypt and other states. Some people choose to express this hatred in such a bloody manner.

Those who drove the tanker laden with more than 2 tonnes of explosives to the U.S. forces' headquarters in the King 'Abd-al-'Aziz base in al-Khubar were not madmen, nor did the Saudi Government describe them as madmen. More than 70 FBI investigators in addition to scores of Saudi security officers are busy investigating the blast and examining every piece of shrapnel to identify those behind it.

This hatred toward the Americans could extend to the regimes allying with them, opening their territories to their troops, and trying to justify their policies hostile toward the Arabs and Muslims' aspirations to lead a dignified and secure life and to recover their usurped land.

Regrettably, the U.S. Administration, which accorded Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu a very warm welcome, as the two chambers of Congress applauded him enthusiastically in a manner he has never experienced in the Knesset, refuses to understand the causes of this hatred or to work to tackle them. Thus we would not be surprised if such attacks on the Americans continue on a large scale in the future.

Arabs do not hate the American people, but they abhor their government's policies biased toward the Hebrew state and supportive of its continued aggression on Arab dignity in Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Libya, and Sudan. When the U.S. state cared for freedoms and human rights before World War II, Arabs respected and appreciated it more than anyone else in the world. But when it inherited European imperialism and its policies, put Israel above international laws, and supported its occupation of Arab land, the picture changed completely and the amity turned into enmity.

If those who killed the Americans in Saudi Arabia and Cairo belong to the Islamic extremist camp, it was Washington, its policies, and its allies in the region that created this phenomenon and supplied it with the fuel needed for its expansion in the region as a whole.

U.S. policy has always encouraged corruption, supported dictatorship, and overlooked its allies' human right violations. Besides, it espoused Islamic extremism in Afghanistan and exploited it in the fight against communists. And when these [Muslim extremists] began their jihad against Israel and the Serbs in Bosnia, they were classed as enemies who should be pursued everywhere and by all means.

In short, the magic has turned against the magician and its allies, and what has happened in Cairo, Riyadh, and al-Khubar is only the beginning.

Palestinian Affairs

Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat on Contacts With U.S., Peace, Netanyahu

NC1907073696 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0515 GMT 19 Jul 96

[Interview with Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat by Shihatah Abu-al-Majd in Nabulus; date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Abu-al-Majd] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher contacted you. Has the U.S. co-sponsor given you any new promises?

['Arafat] In fact, he stressed to me on behalf of President Clinton and the U.S. Administration that they will continue to support the peace process and to urge the Israelis to comply with the signed agreements. He

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

stressed to me that the U.S. stance on all these issues has not and will not change.

[Abu-al-Majd] You recently refused to meet the adviser of the Israeli prime minister. There are reports of a meeting between you and the Israeli foreign minister and prime minister. What is the Palestinian stand and why did you refuse to meet the adviser of the Israeli prime minister?

['Arafat] If he has nothing to say [words indistinct] to receive him and a message. In fact, this is what happened.

[Abu-al-Majd] When will you meet Foreign Minister David Levi?

['Arafat] So far, there have been no contacts for a meeting.

[Abu-al-Majd] Israel has announced some measures to ease restrictions on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. What do you think of this Israeli act?

['Arafat] Since he assumed power, Netanyahu has been talking of easing the restrictions. He said that he would announce this in the United States. He also said that he would declare this after meeting with President Mubarak. We are waiting. The agreement stipulates against imposing such collective sanctions on the Palestinian people and closing the borders. The Israelis have closed the borders not only between us and Israel but also between us and Jordan and Egypt. This siege means collective sanctions against the Palestinian people. We are losing between $6 and $7 million a day as a result of this siege. This is a great deal of money for the Palestinian people.

[Abu-al-Majd] Are you going to exploit the European role, particularly since the U.S. co-sponsor is currently busy with the elections?

['Arafat] There is no doubt about this. In fact, we must recall that the European statement released during the recent Arab summit in Cairo was important because it emphasized the importance of safeguarding and advancing the peace process and not allowing any other setbacks to this process. We encourage the European efforts on all levels. I am sure that the Europeans will do all they can to advance the peace process on all tracks—the Syrian and Lebanese— and not only on the Palestinian track, so that a fair, comprehensive, and permanent peace may be achieved in the region.

[Abu-al-Majd] Do you intend to visit certain Arab and other countries in the near future to activate the peace process, particularly if the Israelis continue their construction of settlements and their statements?

['Arafat] In fact, there is an agenda for the Palestinian moves on all Arab and international levels. We have begun our moves and activities. Brother Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] is currently in Moscow to attend a meeting of the joint Russian-Palestinian committee. The meeting will deal with ties between Russia and Palestine and ways of advancing the peace process in view of the fact that Russia is one of the co-sponsors of the peace process.

[Abu-al-Majd] During my visits with citizens here, I sensed some frustration because the Palestinians do not feel the [benefits] of the peace process. What are the Palestinian options if Israel continues its closure and statements. Are there other options, such as an uprising?

['Arafat] There are individual reactions but not an intifadah. We rely on our people's morale. Our people have faced all difficulties and challenges with strong determination and deep faith. God willing, this deep faith and firmness will continue until we say our prayer together in holy Jerusalem, the capital of the state of Palestine.

[Abu-al-Majd] What are the Palestinian options and what would you like to tell Arab listeners over the Voice of the Arabs?

['Arafat] We have a date with victory, with a new dawn, and to pray together in holy Jerusalem.

Palestinian Affairs: 'Urayqat Says 'Arafat-Levi Meeting 'Insufficient'

JN1807204896 Gaza Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Jul 96

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat said a meeting between President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister David Levi, as announced by Israeli prime minister, is insufficient. 'Urayqat called for resuming negotiations between the two sides and for holding a summit. Dr. 'Urayqat said: There is nothing new about Netanyahu's positions.

Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Adviser Demands Resumption of Talks

NC1807154796 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1420 GMT 18 Jul 96

[Telephone interview with Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, by

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Cairo Radio correspondent Muhammad Zayd in Cairo; date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Zayd] Welcome Nabil Abu-Rudaynah.

[Abu-Rudaynah] Thank you.

[Zayd] You followed the joint news conference President Mubarak and Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu held. Did you think the Israeli tone this time round was different from the tone used previously?

[Abu-Rudaynah] First, I would like to thank the Egyptian efforts being exerted continuously to push the peace process forward. We are waiting for the meeting between President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and President Mubarak during the next 48 hours to be briefed on the latest and most important talks in Cairo today between President Mubarak and the Israeli prime minister. As I told you, there are Egyptian efforts and there are continuing Palestinian-Egyptian contacts as well as negotiations in this regard. We are waiting for the meeting between the two presidents so as to learn about the most important points in these talks.

[Zayd] During the news conference Netanyahu noted that the closure imposed on the Palestinian territories would be eased. How do you view this step?

[Abu-Rudaynah] What we are primarily concerned with is the resumption of the negotiations and the political contacts as well as implementing the agreements between the PLO and the Israeli Government. The closure should be eased immediately. But that is not enough on its own. What is required is not an easing of the siege or provision of facilities. What is required is the implementation of agreements, progress in the peace process, and a start to political contacts to prepare to implement the articles of the peace agreements.

[Zayd] Do you believe this is a sign for starting dialogue with the Palestinians again?

[Abu-Rudaynah] As I told you, so far there have been no political contacts between the Palestinian Authority [PA] and the new Israeli Government. So far the political contacts are frozen. No political contact or political meeting has taken place in this sense, except that a representative of the Israeli prime minister conveyed a message to President Abu-'Ammar and held another meeting with Abu- Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas]. But there are no political negotiations or any political contacts so far. Things are still frozen. What we are demanding is a return to the negotiating table, implementation of the agreements, withdrawal from Hebron, and the easing or removal of the siege.

[Zayd] Judging by what you heard in the news conference, what do you think of the remarks made regarding Jerusalem?

[Abu-Rudaynah] As is known, there is a clear and firm Palestinian and Arab stance on Jerusalem; namely, that Jerusalem is an occupied territory governed by what is applicable to the other occupied territories. Arab Jerusalem, that is East Jerusalem, is part of the occupied territories, and it is on this basis—Resolution 242—that the Arabs and Palestinians have gone to the Madrid peace conference. According to this resolution, Arab Jerusalem is part of the occupied territories. There is a clear-cut Arab stance which manifested itself during the recent successful Arab summit in Cairo. There is a U.S. letter of assurances given to the PLO before the Madrid peace conference. Only 48 hours ago President Abu-'Ammar received a written message from U.S. President Clinton in which he emphasized that there has not been any change in the U.S. position regarding the land-for-peace formula, as well as the other issues, including Jerusalem and the settlements. Arab Jerusalem is part of the occupied territories, and based on this the Palestinian, Arab, and world stance are quiet in harmony.

[Zayd] How do you view the future of negotiations, and the future of the Palestinian-Israeli track in particular?

[Abu-Rudaynah] As you know, a grand Arab stance was taken during the successful Cairo Arab summit. There are firm international stances. There is clear backing for Palestinian rights, as was demonstrated by the statement issued by the G-7-plus Russia meeting a week ago. The Europeans have made a statement. We have the African summit resolutions. There is a clear Arab and international legality in support of Palestinian rights. The Arab and Palestinian stance is armed with international legality and clear and agreed upon rights. What is required of Israel is to return to the negotiating table and comply with the agreements on the basis of the formula under which the Arabs went to the Madrid peace conference; that is, land in exchange for peace. Land means the land occupied in 1967. It is on this basis that the Arabs agreed to go to Madrid.

[Zayd] Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, Palestinian President 'Arafat's adviser: Thank you very much.

[Abu-Rudaynah] Thank you.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Palestinian Affairs: Sha'th 'Optimistic' After Netanyahu Talks With Mubarak

TA1807181396 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1430 GMT 18 Jul 96

[Telephone interview with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian Authority, by Sa'id Mu'addi on the "With the Events" program; place not given — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil, good evening.

[Sha'th] Hello, good evening.

[Mu'addi] What is your comment on the news conference held by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu?

[Sha'th] We have always believed that Mr. Netanyahu's visit to Cairo constitutes an important step and, undoubtedly, will be a step toward enhancing the peace process. We also believed that if it failed, it would actually be an ominous sign of what we may face in the future. We are seeing that the visit proceeded on a more optimistic note and that it may mark the start of the restoring the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations at the highest levels. There is no doubt that the Palestinian Authority [PA] will wait to see the extent to which the agreements signed between the PA and the Israeli Government will actually be implemented on the ground and the way in which new Prime Minister Netanyahu will implement these agreements.

We will look at the closure and how it will end, at the withdrawal from Hebron, at the safe passage, and at the release of the prisoners and detainees. That is, as a result of this summit, we will view the possibilities of advancing in the peace process with greater optimism on the basis of what we will see on the ground.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil, apparently a meeting will be held next week between Foreign Minister David Levi and PA Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. The prime minister has also announced more measures to ease the security blockade. Do you believe that this is another step toward soothing the climate between the two sides?

[Sha'th] I believe so. As I said, we are fully prepared for this meeting. We will see how this blockade, which has been a serious element in destroying the Palestinian economy, will actually be eased and then lifted. As I said, we are ready provided the new Israeli side is also ready. Our real indicator is the implementation on the ground.

[Mu'addi] During the news conference, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak affirmed that until agreement is reached on the issue of Jerusalem, Palestinian institutions should remain there.

[Sha'th] Naturally, we totally support this position. It is a position on which we reached agreement with the former Israeli Government in the draft letters exchanged between then Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Norwegian Foreign Minister Holst. We do not want the rights of anyone to be prejudiced. We want the situation in Jerusalem to continue, the Palestinian institutions to remain there, the blockade on Jerusalem to be lifted, and the people to live normally without land confiscations and settlement construction, so that when we reach the final talks on Jerusalem, its status will be decided through negotiations.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, thank you very much.

[Sha'th] Thank you.

Palestinian Affairs: PA Hails Israeli Decision To Release Female Prisoners

TA1907103596 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Jul 96 p A6

[Report by Sammy Sokol]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Palestinian Authority [PA] officials welcomed Israel's decision to release Palestinian female prisoners, but noted that according to the Oslo B agreement signed last September Israel was supposed to have released all Palestinian female prisoners and detainees in the first round of releases.

"This is very positive news. We welcome the decision and hope it will bring in its wake other decisions in keeping with the agreements we signed," stated Faris Qaddurah, head of the Palestinian Prisoners Club and a Palestinian Council member for Ramallah. According to him, if all the women are released and the government continues to implement the agreement, this could lend credibility to the Netanyahu government's declarations about its intentions to pursue the peace process. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Receives Economic Delegations, Urges Unity

JN1907070196 Gaza Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Jul 96

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Yasir 'Arafat received a Nabulus Chamber of Commerce delegation at noon today. They discussed the economic situation and the problems merchants are having, particularly import and export problems.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The president also received a delegation representing economic and social activists from Tulkarm Governorate. Brigadier General 'Izz al-Din al-Sharif, governor of Tulkarm, was present at the meeting.

President Yasir 'Arafat stressed that our people's unity and support for their National Authority is the safety valve that will help establish the independent state, with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

Addressing a delegation of key figures representing the Janin Governorate led by Brigadier General Fayiz 'Arafat, commander of the region, the president called for consolidating national unity, eliminating differences, and closing ranks to foil schemes that attemtp to abort the national aspirations of the National Authority. He asserted that our people and their historic leadership are determined to be victorious, build the homeland, and achieve freedom and independence.

The president asserted our people's adherence to the peace option as a firm strategy. He urged the Israeli Government to fulfill the requirements of peace, stop using the policy of maneuvering, and eliminate all obstacles and impediments hindering progress. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs: Sanctions Urged if Israel Does Not Abide by Accords

JN1807184696 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1110 GMT 18 Jul 96

[Commentary by Ahmad 'Alawi: "Activating the Security Council Resolutions To Protect the Peace Process"]

[FBIS Translated Text] We highly appreciate the positions of the brothers whose martyrs' blood watered the soil of Palestine, as well as the positions of the honorable friends who have witnessed the march of the Palestinian struggle and have supported us since the start of our march to liberate the land and the holy places from the despots of Israeli occupation.

While facing the refusal by the Israeli right wing to meet the requirements of peace, we assert first to our Palestinian masses and second to our Arab masses that we have confidence in our leadership and adhere to the option of just peace.

Brothers: The responsible pan-Arab reply made at the recent meeting of the Damascus Declaration states in Muscat has truly expressed the oneness of Arab destiny by linking progress in the peace process to normalization with Israel.

The Likud Party methods used in the negotiations is now exposed. The European states, led by France, said progress on the negotiating tracks will be a yardstick for their future relations with the parties to the peace process, particularly Israel. We hope the United States will follow the courageous French position.

The serious situation created by the Netanyahu government requires the United Nations to assume its historic responsibilities and issue a resolution stressing the comprehensiveness and inevitability of implementing its previous resolutions in order to immediately end the onslaught of the Zionist settlements, release the prisoners, repatriate the displaced persons, stop the serious Israeli violations in holy Jerusalem, lift the unjust blockade imposed on the Palestinians, and extend urgent aid to the Palestinian National Authority.

If Israel refuses to yield to the international will, we demand that the United Nations and the United States impose economic and military sanctions against Israel in order to end its rebellion against international legitimacy.

Palestinian Affairs: PA Official on Arab Summit

TA1807184196 Gaza AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH in Arabic 17 Jul 96 p 6

[Interview with Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman, secretary general of the Palestinian Authority Council of Ministers, by unidentified correspondent in Gaza; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH] We are on the threshold of a new stage in the negotiations — that is, the final stage. The Arab summit emphasized these negotiations and their future. How do you assess the results of this summit and its impact on the course of the coming negotiations on the Palestinian level?

['Abd-al-Rahman] It was natural to convene the Cairo summit after much anticipation, especially considering that the achievements on the various tracks of the peace process did not meet the hopes set on peace. Moreover, the Likud's victory speeded up the convocation of the summit because this party — in its well- known electoral platform — stated its renunciation of the principles that guide the peace process. Therefore, it was necessary to determine an Arab strategy that deals with these changes, and this is what actually happened. The Arab summit, sponsored by Egypt, reflected a unified Arab perception of the peace process. This perception is binding on the Arab parties negotiating with Israel. It stands counter to the famous Israeli noes. The Arabs announced their adherence to peace, the principles of the peace process, and its reference point. This stance won the Arabs international support, primarily the European support at the Florence summit and the Russian and Chinese support at the industrialized nations summit.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Consequently, the international arena was closed to Netanyahu's policy.

I believe the current situation will lead us to the state of no war, no peace that prevailed in the past. Therefore, the Arabs should devise a mechanism for the new strategy that was approved by the summit. Regardless of whether the Arabs hasten to devise this mechanism or give Netanyahu time, as America is demanding, Netanyahu is now facing a firm Arab strategy sponsored by Egypt. This strategy reflects both the Egyptian and Arab interest. Consequently, Netanyahu's room for maneuver is very limited. Either he complies with the conditions of the peace process, or he will be responsible for the ensuing turmoil and instability.

[AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH] Do you consider the Palestinian-Arab meetings that President 'Arafat held with President Hafiz al-Asad and President al-Qadhdhafi as a breakthrough in their relations?

['Abd-al-Rahman] These meetings took place against the background of the summit and the new inclination of all the parties to confront the Israeli situation. Consequently, there are new common denominators among the parties, between the National Authority [NA] and Syria and between the NA and Libya. It can be said that this summit ended the rift between the NA and Syria on one hand and between the NA and Libya on the other. This summit also affirmed Arab recognition of the NA. This situation reinforces the NA in its negotiating position vis-a-vis Israel.

This is because Netanyahu's program serves as the basis for enhancing the unity of the Arab negotiating parties and for reaching a unified negotiating program that unites all these parties under Egypt's sponsorship. The heavy burden of solidifying the Arab negotiating position on the basis of the Arab summit's strategy falls on the Egyptian leadership and President Mubarak. The summit's resolutions should not be mere ink on paper.

[AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH] What has been agreed on with regard to the issue of the expulsion of the Palestinians from Libya?

['Abd-al-Rahman] The meeting between President Yasir 'Arafat and al-Qadhdhafi melted the ice in Palestinian-Libyan relations. A high-level Palestinian delegation is expected to visit Libya soon in order to solve the problems relating to Palestinian workers in Libya and their families.

[AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH] What is the NA's stance on the new Likud government in light of its negotiating stances?

['Abd-al-Rahman] The NA's position regarding the Likud government is determined by this government's adherence to the agreements signed between the NA and Israel and the implementation of these agreements in letter and spirit. There is no room for accepting any Israeli attempt to back down from these agreements or to search for new mechanisms for them. The contacts held between the NA and the Likud government are mere technical contacts which have no political significance. The Palestinian side has stressed to the Israeli envoys that the way to establish clear and defined relations between the two sides passes through one station only and that is the implementation of the agreements and the start of the final status talks without delay.

We signed agreements with the Government of Israel, not with the Labor Party or the Likud. Israel's credibility among the Palestinian people, their NA, the Arabs, and the countries of the world depends on accurate compliance with the agreements and the continuation of the peace process. Netanyahu's repeated talk about peace cannot substitute for the implementation of the peace agreements.

[AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH] Israel has not yet shown any intention of resuming the negotiations. Why is that?

['Abd-al-Rahman] We say that the Israeli Government is in the process of being formed. Israel is telling us and the world that this is the case, but I believe that Netanyahu has formed his government, has visited Washington, and will visit Cairo and Amman. Afterward, he must say something clear. Does he want to continue the peace process or engage in deception and renounce the process? I cannot deny that the statements he made in Washington during the news conference with President Clinton are not grounds for optimism. He has a unique interpretation of the land-for-peace principle. Clearly, this interpretation means that he will not withdraw from all the Arab and Palestinian lands occupied in 1967 and that he does not want to return to the borders of 4 June.

This talk by itself is sufficient to destroy the peace process. He also says he has a special interpretation of international resolutions and claims Israel has offered 100 percent and the Arabs nothing. This, too, is a violation of the terms of reference of the peace process and is rejected on the Palestinian, Arab, and international levels. One cannot relate to this claim because it closes the door to peace. Netanyahu has also said he is looking for a new solution — other than the one agreed on — to the issue of Hebron. This logic contravenes the agreement on Hebron which called for withdrawal on 28 March. Needless to say, in Palestine, peace and settlement activity will never meet. Either settlement activity or peace. Security will be achieved through peace

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

and a full Israeli withdrawal from all the Palestinian and Arab territories in implementation of the land-for-peace principle. The Madrid Conference was based on this principle and on Resolution 242, which does not permit the seizure of the lands of others by force and the use of the aggression of 5 June to seize, occupy, and annex Arab lands.

If we refer to Jerusalem, the situation is even more grave, because Jerusalem is the capital of the state of Palestine and the soul of Palestine. Without Jerusalem there will be no peace.

[AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH] In light of this hard-line government, do you believe that the Arab rush toward normalization is continuing, especially as the Arab summit's results left the door open to that, and this may undermine the Palestinian position in the negotiations?

['Abd-al-Rahman] The Arab summit made a clever reference to the issue of normalization. It linked normalization indirectly to progress in the peace process. I am confident that the Arab brothers will not move forward on the issue of normalization while the Israeli occupation of Palestine, the Golan, and occupied Jerusalem continues and while Netanyahu's noes are waved in the face of every Arab, be he a ruler or an ordinary citizen. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH] What is the state of relations between the NA and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]?

['Abd-al-Rahman] The various forces that struggled against the occupation and made sacrifices are required to take the new realities into consideration. The first of these realities is the establishment of the NA on parts of the land of Palestine. Moreover, the NA's strategy is based on negotiations and a halt to military action to secure national rights.

In fact, the operations by Hamas and the Islamic Jihad harmed the Palestinian national position more than the Israeli position and caused an imbalance of forces between the NA and Israel. Israel continues to have a free hand, while the NA's hands are tied.

After these operations, Israel carried out settlement activities, built bypass roads, imposed a security cordon and siege, and froze the agreements with the NA, using these operations as an excuse.

The realization by the various Palestinian forces of the new Palestinian-Israeli reality makes it incumbent upon them to reconsider the forms their struggle will take so that these struggles and operations do not backfire against the Palestinian people. The NA had no choice but to carry out its responsibilities under the agreements and prevent all attempts to perpetrate operations against Israeli targets that would inflict harm on us. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs: Hamas Warns Jordan Against Torturing Supporters

JN1807141496 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1100 GMT 18 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, warned the Jordanian Government against continuing the large-scale campaign it launched against Hamas supporters in Jordan several months ago. In a statement, Hamas accused Jordanian intelligence of using all kinds of torture against people who sympathize with the movement to extract information from them.

Hamas spokesman Ibrahim Ghawshah has refrained from making any statements in recent months, particularly in the wake of the suicide operations carried out by Hamas in Israel in February and March. Jordan has always denied any official Hamas presence on its territory.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Arab-Israeli Talks: Jordan's al-Kabariti, Netanyahu Comment on Meeting

JN1707202796 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Jul 96

[Announcer-read report over video; italicized passages in English]

[FBIS Translated Text] Following his visit to Cairo and his meeting with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti paid an important and swift visit to Tel Aviv last night. The visit reflected Jordan's intensive efforts to advance and continue all tracks of the peace process on solid foundations that ensure the rights of all parties according to the international legitimacy. This is a stand to which Jordan has always been committed.

The prime minister met with his Israeli counterpart, Binyamin Netanyahu, for several hours late last night. After the meting, he told reporters that his visit was a Jordanian initiative in advance of the Israeli prime minister's visit to Egypt tomorrow and his visit to Jordan later this month. The initiative was made to provide the required atmosphere to guarantee the success of the negotiations and talks that will be held in Egypt and Jordan in preparation for the resumption of the peace negotiations.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Al-Kabariti expressed satisfaction with the Israeli prime minister's confirmation of Israel's respect for the Oslo agreement and other agreements signed with Arab parties.

The Israeli prime minister said that he is looking forward to his meetings with His Majesty King Husayn and the Egyptian president. He stressed his desire to expand contacts with the Palestinians and to resume negotiations with the Syrians. He expressed his government's commitment to pursue the peace process.

[Begin recording] [Netanyahu] *I had the opportunity to spend a few good hours with Prime Minister al-Kabariti, who is a friend and a very, very able diplomat. He briefed me on his visit to Cairo in preparation for my visit. I think that he had many important things to say. We both recognize the central importance of Egypt as the cornerstone for the Arab-Israeli peace, and President Mubarak's important role, leading role, in not only leading the Arab world but also in seeking to cement and broaden the circle of peace. I look forward to the meeting with President Mubarak as I look forward to the meeting with King Husayn later on in the month. These are the twin positions of peace. Obviously, alongside my desire to continue the negotiations for peace with the Palestinian Authority, and also I offer to negotiate for peace with Syria. I think that this meeting tomorrow in Cairo, two days from now in Cairo, will be important. Mr. Gold, Dr. Dore Gold, my adviser, will go to Cairo tomorrow to prepare the meeting. And I am very much indebted to you, Prime Minister, for giving us the benefit of your insights and the insights of a wise diplomat and a friend.*

[Al-Kabariti] *Thank you very much. Thank you very much, indeed. Well, again we had a very cordial and frank discussion with Prime Minister Netanyahu. We are very pleased that there are so many issues that we agree that they will form the basis for advancing the cause of peace. That is in the best interest of both the Arab world and Israel and we both feel we are committed to the agreements signed between Israel and Jordan, the agreements singed between Israel and all the other Arab parties, Palestinians and Egyptians, and hope that others will follow very soon. I hope very much that the coming trip of Prime Minister Netanyahu to Egypt and Jordan will be successful. We need to have it a success. We believe that it will pave the way to resume negotiations. Once we go back on track, I think things will be going in the right direction. And I sense there is a sincere commitment from Prime Minister Netanyahu when it comes to making peace.*

[Correspondent] *Prime Minister al-Kabariti, you had a very long day today. Would it be wrong to assume that your unplanned visit now in Israel, in Tel Aviv, has something to do with a meeting that you held with the foreign minister of Syria, Faruq al-Shar', today in Cairo?*

[Al-Kabariti] *Well, in fact, it had to do with my visit to Egypt for sure. I had a good meeting with Minister Faruq al-Shar', and the reason why I am here is because we are very concerned about the peace process and we feel that we, both Jordan and Israel, have a common interest when it comes to making peace and building on the achievements of peace. We believe that Egypt, and the Egyptian president in particular, is so keen to see that the trip that Prime Minister Netanyahu will be making to Egypt the day after tomorrow will be a successful one. So I thought it would be proper for us, as a personal contribution, to come and brief the prime minister on my discussions that I had with President Mubarak. I believe that it will serve a good purpose. I hope so.*

[Netanyahu] *I am sure.*

[Correspondent] *'Arafat in the following days speaks with Mr. Netanyahu. Do you have any news on that?*

[Al-Kabariti] *Prime Minister Netanyahu assured me that they will respect the Oslo agreement and that the Israeli Government is sincere and willing to fulfill the agreements that were signed. I think that this is fair enough for the time being.*

[Netanyahu] *Well, I have said repeatedly and I am saying it again to you tonight that we are going to broaden and expand our contacts with the Palestinian Authority and with Chairman 'Arafat, as well. I know that your patience is trying you, but, believe me, it is worth waiting for.*

[Correspondent] Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti, has your visit to Israel been coordinated with other Arab parties to break the stalemate regarding the Israeli stand on the peace process? Did this visit contribute to breaking this stalemate?

[Al-Kabariti] Jordan is very concerned about breaking the stalemate. We are also very concerned about resuming the peace process, because we believe that peace should be comprehensive. Besides, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has said on more than one occasion that peace should be comprehensive. We have also said on more than one occasion that, for peace to be comprehensive, it should also be just and balanced. I believe there is a very big opportunity, in light of the visits Prime Minister Netanyahu will pay to Cairo and Amman, to resume the peace process. I also believe the opportunity is big enough for us to say that we are optimistic.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Arab-Israeli Talks: Mubarak-Netanyahu Meeting Pondered

MM1907100996 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Jul 96 p 9

[Unattributed article: "Meeting in Cairo, Israeli Premier Binyamin Netanyahu Today Meets With Egyptian President Husni Mubarak"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The attention of political circles inside and outside the region is focused on today's meeting between Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and his Israeli guest Binyamin Netanyahu. This interest is undoubtedly justified. The most likely possibility is that this meeting is not a courtesy visit that neighbors would exchange just for the purpose of getting to know each other. There is the feeling among some observers, however, that the meeting may serve no other purpose than to enable the new Israeli prime minister to take an opportunity to show that dialogue with the Arabs is not over yet. Nevertheless, the Israeli prime minister will listen again to the key elements on which the Arab position on the peace process is based. It is at any rate a position which is entirely clear, as expressed in the statement of the Arab summit held some days ago in Cairo and as indicated by many Arab leaders on more than one occasion, including of course the statement issued by the recent meeting of foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration.

The Arab position can be summarized in three points: First, the Arabs do not want to return to the dialectic of war, which has prevailed for nearly half a century.

Second, there are two sides to peace, since there is nothing to justify the fact that the Arab leaders have embarked on this venture, politically, militarily, and socially to allow Netanyahu and his more extremist friends to establish an empire over the stolen Arab territories. This does not mean that any peace cannot be achieved before occupied Arab land is returned to its legitimate owners.

Third, contrary to the agreements ratified by the opposing sides, there cannot be a real and comprehensive peace unless it has a solid basis of mutual trust, which could take many years to build. That is why it is vital that Israel starts abiding by its commitments, regardless of who is in power in the country.

The previous comments indicate clearly that the ball is now in the court of Netanyahu, who has issued several, mostly contradictory, statements. At any rate, President Husni Mubarak will take advantage of this meeting to clarify the Israeli prime minister's positions, so that the Arabs can have a clear idea about what Israel intends to do over the next four years.

Arab-Israeli Talks: Unchanged Israeli Stance 'Likeliest' Outcome of Cairo Trip

MM1907081896 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 18 Jul 96 p 15

[Editorial: "Netanyahu in Cairo"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu begins an official visit to Cairo today, his first to an Arab capital since he won the recent parliamentary elections. Thus its results could produce numerous developments — negative or positive — with regard to the region, its peace, and its stability.

The Egyptian Government, which these days adopts a stand that is overtly rational and covertly hard-line, opted to wait and not take any hasty steps in its judgment of its Israeli guest. It is waiting until it hears from him his views as regards the future of the peace process sponsored by the U.S. Administration and based on the land- for-peace principle.

The striking thing is that Cairo has prepared well for the visit and it has been the venue of numerous Arab contacts and meetings to prepare for it. Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' paid a visit to Cairo, carrying a message from President Hafiz al-Asad to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. Jordanian Prime Minister 'Abd-al- Karim al-Kabariti also visited Cairo with a similar message from the Jordanian monarch to the Egyptian president and held a protracted meeting with the Syrian foreign minister which was described as very important and a step forward vis-a-vis coordination among Cairo, Amman, and Damascus.

Thus, Netanyahu is expected to hear from President Husni Mubarak in Cairo a detailed explanation of the Arab position on his recent expansionist policies. Al-Kabariti's sudden visit to Tel Aviv to meet with him and warn him of the consequences of his persistence in his extremism must have given him an idea about the real Arab feelings in this connection.

It is difficult for us to predict the results of this visit. However, it can be said that there are four main possibilities: First, Netanyahu will backtrack on his three noes revealed in his address to the Knesset and statements at the joint news conference with President Bill Clinton at the end of his visit to Washington. They are summed up in his refusal to withdraw from the Golan, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip; his refusal to engage in any negotiations over Jerusalem's future; and his objection to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

Second, Netanyahu will adhere to his stands on the grounds that they are a fixed policy that cannot be

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

abandoned because he reached power on the basis of it.

Third, the Egyptians will adapt to these stands and try to justify this adaptation as a political tactic aimed at averting a confrontation pending the end of the U.S. presidential elections phase and the occurrence of an international change in the Arabs' favor.

Fourth, the Egyptians will reject Netanyahu's rigidity and insist on the land-for-peace principle and on implementing all the commitments arising from the Oslo accords and a full halt to settlement operations in the occupied Arab territories.

The likeliest outcome is that Netanyahu will not abandon his three noes or alter his political program and that he will try to realize his prophecy concerning Arabs' adaptation to the new Israeli changes, just as he succeeded in the same thing with the U.S. Administration.

It would not surprise us — and we are familiar with the history of Arab backtracking — if Netanyahu encountered Arab flexibility under various justifications and pretexts. We would not be surprised if the Arabs persuaded their Israeli guest, Netanyahu, to moderate his language during the visit, not to make any statements provocative to world public opinion, and to leave all issues open and vague, since that would spare them much embarrassment before their peoples and could — temporarily — ease the current tense situation in the region.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Algeria

Algeria: FFS To Take Part in Meetings With President Zeroual

LD1807200996 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 18 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Socialist Forces Front [FFS] affirmed today that it would take part in the multilateral meetings with President Liamine Zeroual, for continuing and deepening the national dialogue.

This confirmation came in a statement issued by the FFS this evening in which it pointed out that it would participate in these meetings to reiterate its proposals, hoping that the meetings would be the start of a genuine dialogue.

Algeria: Political Leaders Give Impressions on Talks With President

LD1807122096 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 18 Jul 96

[Italicized passages recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] The president yesterday met delegations representing the Islamic Ennahda Movement, led Mr. Abdallah Djaballah; the Movement for Democracy in Algeria [MDA], led by Mr. Khaled Bensmail; the Algerian Movement for Justice and Development [MAJD], led by Mr. Abdelkader Merbah; and the Social Liberal Party [PSL], led by Mr. Ahmed Khelil.

The meeting, which lasted about six hours, dealt with all the major issues concerning the country and about which the president put forward proposals in his memorandum. These proposals deal with ways of reforming the state institutions.

The talks also included another point that was added to the agenda, namely an end to the bloodshed, as the leader of the MDA delegation, Mr. Khaled Bensmail, told our colleague Mohamed Chellouche:

[Bensmail] *In short, we talked about several issues and we added another point to the agenda, namely an end to the bloodshed. Some points emerged during the discussions and there was also a disagreement over a core issue. This disagreement was essentially about prioritization. As far as our movement is concerned, the top priority is ending the bloodshed. We are saying that this bloodshed can be stopped only through national reconciliation, which would not exclude anybody* [referring to the inclusion of the banned Islamic Salvation Front].

[Chellouche] *But have you reached an agreement in principle about some points or some of the issues at hand?*

[Bensmail] *As far as we are concerned, the essential points concern the events taking place in the country and [the need for] the restoration of peace and stability.*

Immediately after the meeting, Mr. Khaled Bensmail held a news conference at the movement's headquarters. He reviewed all the points raised during the talks between the president and the parties which took part in the multilateral meeting. He focused on the stance adopted by the Movement for Democracy in Algeria towards some of the issues discussed at this session, particularly the amendment of the constitution and an end to the bloodshed, which his movement puts at the top of the list of priorities.

The MDA has not given its final decision on a participation in the committees which it had been agreed to set up to continue talks about the essential issues at the centre of the consultations between the Presidency and the political parties.

The Ennahda movement has, for its part, agreed to take part in these committees. Its leader, Mr. Abdallah Djaballah, had this to say to our colleague, Mohamed Chellouche, about the outcome of yesterday's meeting:

[Djaballah] *Today's meeting covered, in a methodological debate, a number of issues. These are, first of all, the amendment of the constitution, the law on political associations, the electoral law, the national concord conference and the timetable for the elections. Another point was discussed and this concerned an end to the bloodshed. We agreed on some matters.*

[Chellouche] Such as?

[Djaballah] *For example, we have agreed to set up committees whose task will be to discuss the law on political associations, the electoral law and the national concord conference. There are other issues over which no agreement was reached. There was disagreement over these issues and we have postponed taking a final decision on them until the next meeting. This disagreement is especially about the amendment of the constitution.*

The Social Liberal Party came out of the meeting with a good impression. This was reflected in the statement made by its leader, Mr Ahmed Khelil:

[Khelil] *Frankly the issues were important and far-reaching. You know the time we have spent to discuss them. On the whole, there was agreement from the majority of the group. Those who have disagreed with a number of points will have, I think, to sort that out with the president.*

As far as we are concerned, and we can only speak for ourselves, I think that nothing can deflect us from

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

the ideas clarified in the platform. On the whole, I can say that there is a strong desire from all sides, particularly from his excellency the president [to reach an agreement].

The MAJD movement looks at the prospects of the national dialogue with great satisfaction. After the meeting, the leader of the movement, Mr. Abdelkader Merbah [son of former prime minister Kasdi Merbah assassinated in March 1993], made a statement in which he highlighted the seriousness of the talks:

[Merbah] *The meeting was positive because the session was aimed at holding in-depth talks and clarifying matters over which views might have been brought closer. We have agreed on mechanisms for collective action in the form of various committees. Consequently, we tried to bring about a suitable atmosphere in order to ensure the success of the national concord conference, which is forthcoming, God willing. Naturally, there are demands, such as the provision of some political guarantees and some guarantees as regards the media also to ensure the success of this conference. His excellency the president of the republic has agreed on [the point of] these guarantees. We consider this as positive. These committees will meet in order to take final decisions on some details and some matters which are still unresolved. I wish everybody success and I also wish common understanding in order to see this national accord conference succeed. We in MAJD movement expect a lot from this conference.*

Algeria: Cartoonist Arrested; Newspaper Suspended

LD1807113996 Algiers EL WATAN in French 6 Jul 96 pp 1,3

[Article by Ahmed Ancer: "Cartoonist at LA TRIBUNE Jailed at Serkadji Prison — the Intolerable"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Chawki Amari, cartoonist of the daily newspaper LA TRIBUNE, was arrested in the morning of 4 July at his home. Amari was wanted since 3 July following the publication on 2 July of a cartoon considered to undermine the national emblem, according to the public prosecutor's office in Algiers.

The newspaper was sealed on 3 July at about 2000, and its journalists were put under judicial control. The daily newspaper is suspended "until a contrary decision by law." This new trial imposed on the Algerian press has already given rise to a number of reactions.

The editors, some of whom met yesterday, are to meet today and the agenda is the request for the release of the cartoonist and the lifting of the suspension on the newspaper. A similar action is planned by the journalists who, in the absence of a professional body representing them, have started a petition to hold a general meeting.

Lawyers have already formed a group with the same objective, whose top priority is Amari's urgent release. Reactions are also forthcoming from abroad:

Amnesty International, the most prestigious nongovernmental organization in the defense of human rights, has already made its position public under the title "Urgent-Action," in which it considers the journalist a "prisoner of conscience."

Reporters Sans Frontieres [Reporters Without Borders], in a second correspondence dated yesterday, asked the president of the republic that "Chawki Amari should be released immediately, the judiciary control imposed on Kheireddine Amyar and Baya Gacemi should be lifted, and LA TRIBUNE should be published again normally as soon as possible."

The suspension of LA TRIBUNE, the arrest of its journalist, and the placement under judiciary control of its journalists do not come as a surprise.

Since the election of Liamine Zeroual to the supreme office, the authorities have increased the pressure on all civil and political actors, thus giving the impression of wanting to tighten up completely the forces at work, as if the ballot was a sign of going back to single party thinking.

As for the press, sanctions were falling from everywhere on the private newspapers that continue to show their independence, at the time when private newspapers close to the circles of power as well as public newspapers benefit from a financial aid subsidized directly by the public treasury and, consequently, by the taxpayers.

In parallel to the administrative and judiciary pressures put on the really independent newspapers, the organizations of journalists are either put under petty officiousness or stifled in the egg. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Egypt: Mubarak, Israel's Netanyahu Hold News Conference

NC1807121596 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1011 GMT 18 Jul 96

[News conference by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu with foreign and domestic correspondents at the Presidential Palace in Cairo—live; in English and Arabic with a partial simultaneous translation

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

from English into Arabic. The transcribed portions are italicized.]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Mubarak] *Good afternoon. I welcome this opportunity to meet with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and discuss with him issues of common concern. We held extensive talks, focusing on the peace process and the need for creating the proper atmosphere for resuming the peace negotiations on all tracks as soon as possible.*

We are in agreement that this should be a matter of priority. As you all know, Egypt was the first country in the region to pioneer and work tirelessly for a just and comprehensive peace. Today, we remain firmly committed to that goal, for we consider it the strategic one of fundamental importance. That was also the consensus of the Arab heads of state when they met here in Cairo last month. Hence, we will do all we can to help the parties directly involved make progress toward peace. In this context, all those parties must realize that they are committed to work for a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace.

The negotiations should be based on the terms of reference laid down by the Madrid peace conference, namely Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425, the principle of land for peace, and the legitimate political rights of the Palestinians. The link between peace and security should be put in the right perspective. Experience has taught us that a just peace which is genuinely accepted by the majority people is the key to greater security and stability. Extremists would find it most difficult to mobilize the people behind their evil goals. Violence and terrorism spread only in an atmosphere of despair and frustration, which emanate from a feeling of injustice.

To us, the principle of reciprocity requires each party to assume that his rights are equal to those of the other, no less and no more sacred. Accordingly, each party ought to honor its obligations and commitments in good faith. In the course of negotiations, all issues must be considered negotiable. This is a cardinal rule that forms the essence of the process of a negotiated settlement. If negotiations are interrupted and subsequently resumed, the parties should proceed from the points where they have left off and not from a vacuum. Throughout the negotiations the parties should refrain from any action which might jeopardize the process or predetermine the outcome of the negotiations.

Under the present circumstances, Israel should continue the implementation of the agreements which were signed with the Palestinian Authority. These agreements were reached with the State of Israel and not with a certain candidate or political party. It would be a waste of time and effort to try to renegotiate what was agreed upon.

The prime minister has assured me that his government intends to fulfill its obligations.

The two sides would proceed to negotiate the final status of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip—the sooner the better.

Together with that, negotiations must be resumed on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks without delay. I have been assured by President al-Asad that Syria is serious in its search for a just and comprehensive peace.

We are not unaware of the complexity and sensitivity involved in the issue of Jerusalem. However, we believe that neither party is asking for the division of the city or the erection of any wall. Together with that, Arab Muslim and Christian rights must be respected and observed. Therefore, it should not be impossible to reach agreement on the basis of mutually agreed formula.

In the meantime Israel should respect existing Palestinian institutions. As we move promptly and successfully on the bilateral tracks, the prospects for regional cooperation would be bright. The fruits of peace would then be shared by all the peoples of the Middle East.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I discussed these vital issues with the prime minister in an atmosphere of candor and open-mindedness. [words indistinct]

At the end of our meeting we agreed to follow up these useful discussions and maintain a line of communication and dialogue in the months ahead. We will continue to look at the future of our region with guarded optimism and a sense of hope. We must not give the extremists and the advocates of doom and gloom the opportunity to kill our dream for a Middle East of coexistence and the prosperity. It's our firm conviction that the forces of reason and moderation will prevail. Thank you.

[Netanyahu] *Thank you, Mr. President. I want to thank President Mubarak for a very gracious welcome and [words indistinct] for this open-minded meeting [words indistinct] the issues of advancing peace: peace between us and the Palestinians, and peace between us and the Syrians and of course the Lebanese as well.*

I must say that we always look on Egypt as the pivot of peace.

[Words indistinct] under the late President al-Sadat and Prime Minister Begin. I think President Mubarak is very skillfully and responsibly moving along this tradition. He is the leader of the country that is the leader of the Arab world and we agreed that we must intensify efforts to expand the circle of peace, which of course is important

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

for both and Egypt and the entire region. We believe that the peace will be based on the idea of fulfilling existing commitments, that is, all existing treaties are made to be fulfilled and this involves the principle of reciprocity. We keep our commitments. We expect of course the other side to fulfill their commitments as well.

I also discussed with President Mubarak our bilateral ties and ways to improve them. We also discussed ways to enhance our economic cooperation. When I say this, I mean the entire region's prosperity. Our views are similar on this. Prosperity is necessary to strengthen peace. On a personal level, Mr. President, I would like to state that I was impressed by your sincerity and warmth and the amity and friendship that you have shown to me, to the Israeli people, and the State of Israel.

[Correspondent] A question, Prime Minister, from Egyptian television. Do you accept the terms of the Madrid conference? What is your view on the land-for-peace principle.?

[Netanyahu] We adhere to the authority of the Madrid conference just like all the concerned parties, including ourselves and President Mubarak. This is our policy. We are not setting out any conditions. I believe the terms of reference contained in the invitations addressed to the various parties to attend the Madrid conference have brought us together. This was the beginning of the special framework for the negotiations. Regarding the land-for-peace principle, there are several interpretations of it and of the way it should be implemented. The best way to proceed with the negotiations is to return to the last term of reference on which we agreed, namely, the Madrid conference. We accept this term of reference.

[Correspondent] This is a question from Israeli television. You said before that you will judge the policies of the new Israeli Government after meeting Netanyahu. I would like to ask you this: Are you now more satisfied with the concept of peace as explained to you by the prime minister? If you will allow me, I would like to add this: Do you have any comment on the main gist of Egyptian opposition newspaper reports claiming that Netanyahu pollutes the atmosphere in Egypt?

[Mubarak] If we look at the opposition newspapers here and the opposition newspapers there, we will find much criticism. This is not really an issue. After our meeting today, I have high hopes that the peace process will continue. I did not comment on anything until I met the prime minister today. Today I can say I feel satisfied. He has fully understood my views. I hope the peace process will continue.

[Correspondent] Prime Minister, this is a question from Egyptian television. According to observers, you have spoken of the Arab people in a somewhat condemnatory tone and urged that the Arabs be trained in the concepts of human rights and democracy.

[Netanyahu] I disagree with you on that. I respect the Arab people and their presidents, not only the Egyptian president and people. Here I am speaking of all the Arab countries, notably Egypt. I wish to make it clear that I have expressed my personal preference. But I believe every country must make its own decisions with regard to its system of government. I stated very clearly that I am not setting out any conditions on the peace negotiations. We will negotiate with each country and each one will make its own decisions. Every one of these countries will decide on the form of its public life and develop it in the way it chooses.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, I am (Aharon Banyam) from Israeli television's Channel 2. How can you proceed with the peace process if one party does not accept the land-for-peace principle?

[Mubarak] I believe the land-for-peace principle is a generally accepted principle and I do not think any country rejects it. At any rate, the Madrid conference and [UN Security Council Resolutions] 242 and 338 enshrine this principle.

[Correspondent] Still, as Your Excellency has heard, the current Israeli Government has a different interpretation of this principle.

[Mubarak] I believe a written interpretation of the resolutions exits. There can be no other interpretation. There might be other ideas or other methods but the principles do not change.

[Correspondent] Prime Minister Netanyahu, do you not think the attainment of a just peace will consolidate regional stability and security?

[Netanyahu] Yes, this is our aim. I believe there is a dual relationship between peace and security. First, to have lasting peace there must be a foundation for security. Along the same lines, I totally agree that if we reach a peace agreement that is acceptable both to the entire Israeli public and to the Arab parties with whom we are negotiating, this will contribute to the region's security and stability. Hence, I declare that this is our aim. I have new confidence that we can attain such a peace. I also believe that Egypt will play a basic role in attaining this objective. Judging by our discussions today, I believe this is how things stand now.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, I have a question for you and, if you will allow me, I will ask the prime minister a question too. How, in your opinion, can the peace process with the Palestinians continue? Should the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Israeli Government do something special to give fresh impetus to the peace process? Mr. Prime Minister, are you going to take any steps to proceed with the peace process with the Palestinians?

[Mubarak] I believe the Palestinian issue is the core of the Middle East issue. As for the steps that must be taken, I think that first of all the agreements already reached must now be implemented. This should be followed by the next stage, that is, negotiations on a permanent solution for the whole issue. We discussed this with the prime minister today. I can now say that I have hopes that things will proceed as we have planned.

[Netanyahu] I have discussed with President Mubarak our intentions regarding the negotiations with the Palestinian Authority [PA], first of all, to complete the implementation of the Oslo and Oslo B agreements. I have long been saying that we will do this by increasing communications between Israel and the PA. As you know, Foreign Minister Levi will meet 'Arafat next week. This will mark the beginning of the official communications between us. Second, I have expressed our view that it is important for us to ease the economic hardships of the Palestinian inhabitants resulting from the security incidents and the subsequent closure of the territories imposed by the previous government. I believe—and we have actually made an announcement about this—that we will reduce the closure and give permission to an additional 10,000 Palestinian workers to work in Israel. We will also reduce the checkpoints, increase the number of operating ambulances, and so on to ease the lives of the Palestinians and maintain an open economic relationship, not a closed one. These measures will accompany the resumption of the negotiations to create goodwill, make progress, fulfill the remaining commitments, and reach a successful conclusion to the negotiations.

[Correspondent] This is a question form Egyptian Television to President Mubarak and Prime Minister Netanyahu. The Jerusalem issue is very important for the Arabs and Israelis. How can we safeguard the rights of Muslim and Christian Arabs in the holy city?

[Netanyahu] This is a very important topic. I was pleased with President Mubarak's statement. I fully agree with him that this city should not be divided again. I believe it is an important principle for us that the rights of the three religions should be fully protected in the city. I believe it is important that we avoid any provocation so that this sensitive issue will not be a bone of contention obstructing the negotiations. Therefore, the principle that must prevail is a united city in which the rights of the three religions are safeguarded.

[Mubarak] I have stated my opinion. I have not called for the division of the city or building of a wall there. I have called for rights for the Christians and Muslims and for the protection of these rights. I believe a formula can be reached in this direction.

[Correspondent] This is a question to President Mubarak from an Israeli newspaper. I would like to ask you about the fate of the Middle East-North Africa business summit scheduled for November. If no progress is made in the peace process, do you plan to cancel this summit or isolate Israel and not invite it to the summit? There is another question for Mr. Netanyahu. Could you elaborate on the economic topics you discussed with President Mubarak?

[Mubarak] The summit is very important for the whole region. We are working hard to clear the atmosphere and to convene the summit in time, if this is possible, because everybody is interested in it. We are working seriously with the prime minister to achieve a good result to help convene this summit on its scheduled date.

[Netanyahu] I believe the summit will help everything. I discussed bilateral economic relations with President Mubarak. As you know, we have achieved several successes in the agricultural field. There is long-term cooperation between Egypt and Israel. There is a joint textile venture in Egypt. We are cooperating on a big oil refining project. We are studying some very large projects. I believe this is a good way to strengthen and consolidate bilateral relations and improve the general economic conditions in the region. This will contribute to peace.

[Correspondent] This is a question for Mr. Netanyahu: Are you ready or not to meet Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat? Is he not your partner in peace? Do you not need to negotiate with him directly? Do you have an alternative to President 'Arafat?

[Netanyahu] I have said repeatedly that we will negotiate with the Palestinian Authority and with 'Arafat. We will do what the other parties are doing. I do not rule out [meeting] any person at the right time. I am confident that we will study such a meeting.

[Correspondent] This is a question for President Mubarak: What is your reaction to the philosophy Prime Minister Netanyahu specified in the U.S. Congress regarding the application of democracy and human rights in the Arab world as a basic element of the peace process? I will ask again. [Correspondent repeats his question]

[Mubarak] I believe Prime Minister Netanyahu explained this point in his speech now and there is no

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

need for me to comment on it. I agree with him and agree with the explanations he has given.

[Correspondent] Mr. Prime Minister, we know that Egypt and Israel have negotiated and reached a successful peace agreement, which has been signed. Would you accept and are you ready now to do the same thing with Syria?

[Netanyahu] Yes. This is our desire. Our desire is to negotiate an official peace with Syria. I am prepared to enter such negotiations directly. Our representatives met in Washington during the meetings to form the monitoring group. We are ready to negotiate with Syria. I have heard some of the criticism directed against us. With regard to Syria's behavior in Lebanon, these are issues that cannot be set aside. They are important for us. We hope Syria will manage to change its stand and course in a positive way. We would like to make progress in the negotiations to conclude a peace agreement with Syria.

[Correspondent] Hana' Salam from Cairo Radio with a question for President Mubarak and Prime Minister Netanyahu. Do you not believe that the settlements in the occupied territories are an obstacle to the peace process? They are not legal in accordance with the Security Council resolutions. Is there a model for coexistence between the Arabs and the Israelis in this framework?

[Netanyahu] I believe our stand on the settlements is known. There are some other stands. We will consider our practical policies in the government. We have not done that yet. We have been in power for just three weeks. But this topic will be one of the topics to be addressed during the negotiations on the final settlement.

[Correspondent] My question is for President Mubarak: Did you, today, acquire a clear agreement from Prime Minister Netanyahu [word indistinct] the negotiations with Syria? And is there a date set for holding these negotiations? Did you discuss this? My question to Mr. Netanyahu is the following: What is your comment on media reports that your defense minister [word indistinct] to discuss during the next cabinet session the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from southern Lebanon and that they are being targeted there?

[Mubarak] With regard to negotiations with Syria, I believe we discussed this issue with the prime minister. When we consider it appropriate, we will start the negotiations—as has already been said.

[Netanyahu] Our basic objective [pauses] We have no plans or rights in southern Lebanon. We are only protecting our villages and towns in the north against external violations. This has always been our stand. We are in Lebanon now because there is a need for that. We will stay there as long as the need exists. We do not want to be in Lebanon but so far we have not managed to achieve this objective. The government has so far not found a way to resolve this issue. In addition, I draw your attention to and ask you to always look for the source of the problem.

[Correspondent] According to your defense minister and to [name indistinct], the Israeli soldiers are being targeted in Lebanon.

[Netanyahu] I do not believe everything I read in the paper, be it an Egyptian or Israeli paper.

[Correspondent] This question is for President Mubarak and the Israeli prime minister: This round of talks, the first between yourselves, was expected to remove the difficulties and clear up the misunderstandings. Now that the talks and clarifications are over, do you feel you have overcome the problems and the doubts raised over the prospect of attaining peace without an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories?

[Mubarak] In my opening remarks I said I spoke about the land-for-peace principle and the prime minister spoke of the Madrid conference and the Oslo conference. I believe we now have a fairer understanding of the issues.

[Correspondent] This question is about Hebron. At the start of this news conference you said that what you have agreed upon must be implemented. Have you agreed on the redeployment of troops in Hebron, the release of Palestinian prisoners, and many other issues? Have you discussed all these issues? Would you like to comment on this?

[Netanyahu] We discussed many of these issues and I outlined our positions, namely, that commitments must be met by both sides, keeping in mind that they include issues that have a security aspect. I assure you that our aim is to fulfill our commitments and, simply speaking, we expect the other side to fulfill its commitments. As for Hebron, we have a principle of always fulfilling our obligations. Although the Hebron issue is a highly complex one, we will find a solution that will answer the conflicting needs of both sides but we must fulfill our commitment to guarantee the security of the Jewish community and of the Arab community as well. It is a dual problem. I believe nevertheless that there can be a satisfactory solution. In answer to your earlier question, I think this is a very good beginning for renewed relations between Israel and Egypt. I believe today's meeting was necessary. As the president noted, we needed to clear the atmosphere. We have succeeded in doing that.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Mubarak] Thank you.

Egypt: Musa Describes Netanyahu's Assurances as 'Step Forward'

NC1807132896 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1147 GMT 18 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 18 Jul (MENA)—Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that "Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's assurances that the Madrid framework is a basic framework for negotiations is an advanced step; it is not everything, but it is a step forward." This came in a statement by Musa in answer to a question on whether the Egyptian side felt after the meeting between the Egyptian and Israeli sides that the new Israeli Government could be a partner in pushing forward the peace process.

Musa added that "after the meeting we became acquainted with the situation in a better way."

Egypt: Netanyahu Tours Cairo by Plane, Departs for Home

NC1807140996 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1350 GMT 18 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 18 Jul (MENA)—Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and his delegation left Cairo this afternoon for home, after a visit to Egypt that lasted several hours. During the visit, the Israeli prime minister held talks with President Husni Mubarak and the two men then gave a news conference at the conclusion of their talks.

Before his departure, Netanyahu went on a tour of Cairo by plane during which he saw the historic, archeological, and touristic sites of the city.

Egypt: Israeli Flag Burned To Protest Netanyahu's Visit

NC1807184096 Paris AFP in English 1816 GMT 18 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, July 18 (AFP) - Up to 300 Egyptian lawyers on Thursday [18 July] set fire to an Israeli flag in front of their trade union headquarters and shouted slogans against visiting Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

The Israeli rightwing leader whose hardline policies have sparked alarm in the Arab world was Thursday on his first visit to an Arab country, holding talks in Cairo with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

But he arrived to a hostile press reception with the local media keeping up their blistering attacks on him.

And the journalists union also burned an Israeli flag at their headquarters in a smaller protest attended by a few dozen people, witnesses said.

Egypt: Mubarak Views Talks With Netanyahu, Peace Prospects

NC1907091996 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0830 GMT 19 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 19 Jul (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak said he is optimistic about the outcome of his talks yesterday with Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. In an exclusive statement to the television program "Good Morning Egypt," President Mubarak said today that he discussed with Netanyahu all the issues that concern the peace process on the Palestinian track, the international obligations, the settlements, and the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. He added: I found Netanyahu responsive to a large degree and believe there is great hope that the peace negotiations will be resumed soon.

President Mubarak said: Discussions between Netanyahu and me went on for around two hours. Though everyone was pessimistic and I was apprehensive, I found great hope in achieving peace with the Likud leader. He added: We concluded the Camp David treaty and other agreements with former Likud leader Menachem Begin. Negotiations might stop and might proceed. This is the nature of negotiations.

He noted that every negotiator wants to get the utmost from the other party and I believe that the process will continue. There might be difficulties from time to time but I have great hope that the process will continue because Netanyahu wants a solution and to reach peace and also wants to complete what has been achieved.

On Netanyahu's linkage of peace to security and when Israeli security will be achieved, President Mubarak said: I told Netanyahu that if we are only discussing security then we will not reach peace. He added: When we proceed with the peace process, we must expect acts of violence from time to time but this should not deter us from continuing with the process because once we reach a final, just, and comprehensive peace, all the countries will cooperate together to resist terrorism. But if we wait until security is achieved first and then start looking for peace, then we will not reach a solution.

On whether he sensed a softening in Netanyahu's hardline tone during his meeting with him, especially with regard to the principle of land for peace, President Mubarak said: I mentioned this principle to Netanyahu and he did not object to it. But he said that his country pledges to implement the Oslo and Madrid agreements,

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

all of which talk about the land, the details of which I do not want to get into. I have great hope that the land will be returned so that the peace process can continue.

Asked for his view on the comment that the peace process will be lukewarm under Netanyahu and even after he leaves his post after four years, President Mubarak said: The new Israeli prime minister made statements before and after the elections. His speech to the U.S. Congress created a shock in the Arab world. He added: I spoke to him and he told me: I do not mean this or that. He spoke about his respect for the Arabs and Islam. On democracy, he told me: Each country is free. That's what caused the shock in the Arab world. But after I met with him and we spoke together clearly and very frankly, I believe that I reached the conclusion that he will proceed with us in the peace process.

In response to a question on whether the talks also dealt with the issue of Israel joining the arms limitations talks, President Mubarak said: We did not discuss this issue because we want to resume the peace negotiations and get into the arms limitations issue later.

On whether the talks dealt with the issue of the Israeli prime minister's desire not to let some officials enter the Orient House, President Mubarak said: I did not go into detail but told him of the need to respect the Palestinians' and Muslims' rights. We will be able to reach a comfortable formula for this process.

The president stressed his rejection of the partition of Jerusalem, noting that this is in accordance with a resolution passed by the Security Council not to partition Jerusalem. The president said that the Palestinians are saying the same, noting in this respect that President 'Arafat's adviser Marwan Kanafani demanded several days ago that Jerusalem be not divided, walls erected, or barbed wire put up and underlined the Palestinians' legitimate rights.

On how optimistic he is about the peace process following his talks with Netanyahu, President Mubarak said: I am optimistic because as long as the people want peace we must be optimistic. We will continue the contacts in order to let the process continue. We will talk to the Palestinians and explain the situation to them because they are worried and apprehensive. We will talk with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and send him a message briefing him on the situation, on the hope that the peace process will continue because we all want peace.

Egypt: Mubarak Briefs Syria's al-Asad on Talks With Netanyahu

NC1907120996 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 19 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] President Husni Mubarak telephoned Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad this morning. He reviewed the outcome of Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin's Netanyahu's visit to Cairo. They also exchanged views on the prospects of the peace process in the Middle East. President Mubarak also expressed his heartfelt condolences to President al-Asad on the death of his brother 'Ali al-Asad.

Egypt: Musa Comments on Netanyahu's Statement on Jerusalem

NC1907114896 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1042 GMT 19 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 19 Jul (MENA)—Commenting on Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's remarks in Cairo yesterday, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has said that President Husni Mubarak, in his comment yesterday, clarified Netanyahu's proposal in this regard, saying that the issue of Jerusalem is based on the equal and fair rights of its population as well as the principles of international legitimacy and the importance of protecting the holy places of the Muslims and Christians, which have a special status.

Responding to a question by MENA, Musa said the issue of Jerusalem requires several points to be clarified. The first point relates to Jerusalem's unity, because this was decided by the United Nations. The second point relates to East Jerusalem—occupied in 1967 and governed by Security Council Resolution 242—one of the principles of the current peace process. Musa pointed out that, regarding Jerusalem's unity, the United Nations decided on this issue with the partition decision of 1947. The Arab countries agreed on the city's unity in the fifties in accordance with the UN resolution in this regard. He noted that the Arab countries' approval of Jerusalem's unity is linked with issues that the United Nations proposed regarding a peaceful settlement of the Palestinian issue and the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. He said that this is quite different from the decision to annex Jerusalem, which Israel declared in 1967. He noted that the Arab countries do not agree to this step nor did any UN member country, because this is an illegal decision.

Musa said the final status of Jerusalem will only be decided through negotiations, particularly the final solution negotiations on the Palestinian issue. Regarding the Islamic and Christian holy places, he said this

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

issue requires a special solution in addition to the political status of the city. He said this solution must be based on protecting these holy places and ensuring freedom to enter these places and determine the Arab authority that will supervise them, noting that all these issues are proposed within the framework of the final stage negotiations between the Palestinian Authority and Israel.

Egypt: Cairo Press Takes 'Cautious View' on Netanyahu Visit

NC1907084696 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2200 GMT 18 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 18 Jul (MENA)—The Cairene press commentaries on the results of [Israeli Prime Minister] Netanyahu's visit to Egypt yesterday take a cautious view of the outcome. They indicate a preference to wait and see until his intentions become clearer and until he proves his assertion that Israel is committed to act within the framework of the Madrid conference and will implement its pledges and agreements with the Arabs.

The papers assert that the issue primarily depends on progress achieved in negotiations on the Palestinian, Syrian, and Lebanese tracks. They warn Netanyahu that he should take into account the fact that the situation has become unbearable for the Arab peoples, who have stayed patient for a long time in their struggle for their legitimate rights, that their confrontation of the Israeli provocations and aggressions has become a question of dignity and a challenge, and that the thundering waves of anger will sweep everything in their way without being stopped by Israel's conventional or nuclear weapons or U.S. protection.

Despite this cautious tone in their commentaries, Cairo's press devote their banner headlines, first pages, and some of the inside pages to the proceedings of the joint news conference held by President Husni Mubarak and Netanyahu at the conclusion of their talks. They focus their banner headlines on President Mubarak's statement that a fair peace has priority and that our aim is to prepare the climate for resuming the negotiations on all tracks. They also underline the president's assertion that there is no other explanation for the principle of land for peace because the principles and resolutions are written and do not change.

The papers highlight Netanyahu's statement that "Israel is committed to working within the framework of the Madrid conference and to carrying out its pledges and agreements with the Arabs."

In its banner headline, the opposition paper AL-WAFD accuses Netanyahu of avoiding declaring his commitment to the principle of land for peace. It also highlights President Mubarak's denial at the news conference of any demand for partitioning Jerusalem and his assertion that the Muslims' and Christians' rights should be guaranteed.

Under the headline "The Security Pretext and Disrupting the Peace Process," AL-AKHBAR chief editor Jalal Duwaydar writes: After listening to the speeches of President Mubarak and Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu at the start of the news conference and to their answers to the correspondents questions, I recall the Egyptian proverb "Put it to the test to prove it." By this I mean that achieving peace is the hope of all the peoples of the region and this will be incomplete without work, action, and real steps leading to concrete achievements that serve peace. The practices of prevarication and procrastination have been exposed and are unacceptable to governments or peoples.

The writer asserts that the real and lasting peace is the one that complies with justice, is comprehensive, and is based on agreements and the international legitimacy's resolutions. To play with words by calling for negotiations without preconditions, to use the issue of security as a pretext for justifying the disruption of the peace process, and to entrench aggression and the expansionist tendencies in the region are totally unacceptable. Security cannot be a special objective that serves Israel alone but should be a common goal and a mutual interest for all the parties.

He notes that experience shows that the Arab parties are more in need of security than Israel, which is always aggressive and which has been occupying Arab territories since 1967. He says: Bargaining, distortion, beating around the bush in implementing the principle of land for peace, and alleging that the new Israeli Government under Netanyahu has new ideas about this issue are totally unacceptable.

Duwaydar goes on to say: While welcoming the optimism that prevailed and President Mubarak's satisfaction after his talks with the Israeli prime minister during which he heard the latter's views and briefed him on the Egyptian people's and government's clear and frank views, we still say that the real test in the end is effective action toward peace. Escalation, tension, incitement, arrogance, theatrics, and attempts to impose stands will only increase the tension and worries and ignite the fuse of the destructive clash in all the countries of the region without exception.

The writer adds that Netanyahu should take into account the fact that the situation has become unbearable to the Arab peoples, who have stayed patient for a long time in their struggle for their legitimate rights, that their

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

confrontation of the Israeli provocations and aggressions has become a question of dignity and challenge, and that the thundering waves of anger will sweep everything in their way without being stopped by Israel's conventional or nuclear weapons or U.S. protection.

He expresses confidence that many Israelis believe in this truth, especially as they tasted its bitterness in the Palestinian uprising and in the suicidal attacks on them. He adds that feelings of injustice as a result of insistence on occupying the territories and the repression of the Arabs, as President Mubarak noted in the news conference, will be an acceptable justification for expanding the circle of terrorism and violence. Hence neither security nor the most modern technological equipment will have any role in stopping this sweeping wave that will hit the region's security and stability.

Duwaydar concludes his article by saying: Peace is peace, Mr. Netanyahu. We believe deeply in God Almighty's words: But if the enemy incline towards peace, do thou (also) incline towards peace. [Koranic verse]. The ball is now in your court to prove your good intentions and that you are for peace and not its enemy.

Commenting on the same topic in its editorial today headlined "No Security Without Peace," AL-AKHBAR says that what could be relied upon when the ship of peace was launched 10 years ago cannot be accepted these days because the ship's existence is now an established fact. Any damage to this ship would auger grave dangers that may lead to its sinking or at least breakdown. The paper says that the climate is now completely different and the people are now more prepared for the post-peace era. Any attempt to delay fulfilling this hope would place barriers on the path, shatter hopes, and create despair and frustration. This fact applies not only to the Arab peoples but also to the Israeli people. The latest opinion poll showed that more than two-thirds of the Israeli people still support continuation of the peace process on the same principles. Concluding its editorial, the paper says that talk of a comprehensive, fair, and permanent peace is the same as talk of a comprehensive peace for all parties because we and the world are in agreement that there can be no peace without security and no security without peace. Netanyahu and his government, however, seem to have another definition of security and link it to force, although all signs showed that force however great cannot ensure security at all.

In his daily column in AL-JUMHURIYAH, Samir Rajab says that it is clear from Binyamin Netanyahu's statement in Cairo that he has gotten and understood the message. Netanyahu's statement says that he is committed to the agreements and charters particularly regarding the conditions and resolutions of the Madrid and Oslo conferences. When Netanyahu wanted to prevaricate regarding the land-for-peace principle saying that there are different explanations for this principle and ways of implementing it, President Mubarak immediately stepped in and declared that UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 exist, are valid and in writing, and that principles do not change. Netanyahu was unable to comment.

Rajab said that Netanyahu's current stance on the travel of Palestinians from Gaza to the West Bank and regarding the Hebron problem is more flexible. He stressed that Israel is committed to the agreements concluded on Hebron. Rajab said that generally speaking it has been proven that Netanyahu's visit has done some good and no harm. Conversely, he has come to acknowledge the importance of peace and Israel's eagerness to continue the peace process and has declared his respect and appreciation of all Arab peoples, foremost of whom is Egypt. Rajab said that the coming days will reveal the intentions because the question first and foremost depends on the extent of progress that will be made in the negotiations on all Palestinian, Syrian, and Lebanese tracks. Concluding, Rajab says that thus Egypt's vision as always has proven right and that providing opportunities for dialogue and discussions are far better than the policy of closing doors, which in the past led to grave consequences.

In his daily column in al-AKHBAR, Mustafa Amin says we want a fair, complete, and permanent peace in the Middle East. He says that the new Israeli Government wants peace by installment. We adhere to all our previous agreements whereas Israel wants to begin anew and cancel what we have agreed upon and then engage anew in long and arduous negotiations only to cancel any other agreement and begin again and so on and so forth. He says that the Arabs refuse this absurd policy and will adhere to everything they have reached and agreed upon. The Arabs will not agree to any new Israeli government canceling what they agreed upon with a previous government. He says that states do not reach agreements piecemeal and no country in the Middle East will agree to deal with a country that does not honor its signature and cancels today what it agreed upon yesterday and every day pursues a new policy that differs from its previous policies. Concluding, Amin says we honor our signature and ask the others to honor theirs. The age of Hitler, who would sign an agreement one day and cancel it the next, is over.

The opposition paper AL-WAFD says that the most important principle in Arab-Israeli relations is that of land for peace. This principle is merely ink on paper

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

and of no value as long as the Israeli Government does not honor it. The paper warns that unless this principle is translated into reality the entire peace process will be threatened. The reason is the new Israeli intransigence, which the prime minister of the new Israeli Government demonstrates and escalates. Concluding, AL-WAFD says that Netanyahu left Cairo as he came to it and the crisis has become even more complicated because he said what he had already reiterated in all his previous statements, and thus the issue becomes mired.

Egypt: Tension, Unrest Feared Because of Likud Policy

NC1707061296 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 12 Jul 96 pp 1, 3

[Article by Chief Editor Ibrahim Nafi': "The Government of Israeli Hawks and Disturbing Expectations Regarding Peace"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It seems that the Likud government that Binyamin Netanyahu heads in Israel will keep the region preoccupied more than had been previously thought. In last week's article I mentioned some factors that I said will restrict this government's freedom of movement in implementing its provocative public policy and limit the scope of its dealings with the peace steps achieved in the past few years. Furthermore, what we might describe as "early indications" of small but significant changes are appearing in some of the Netanyahu government's public positions concerning several issues on which it initially adopted hardline stands, meaning that this government might ultimately become more realistic. This aside, there is widespread anxiety about the Likud government's public stands and likely behavior. This anxiety is steadily increasing, fed as it is by a string of categorical statements and actions by the Tel Aviv government, some of which are clear and some vague. All this is causing the peace process to actually begin to retreat and some circles interested in the Middle East have begun to consider possibilities unthinkable a few months ago.

The Israeli newspaper HA'ARETZ said at the beginning of July that Jordanian Government officials had sent messages to the Israeli prime minister warning, or rather advising, him not to praise Israeli-Jordanian relations too highly. The newspaper reported that the Jordanian officials explained that such praise might pose a threat to the Jordanian political system because of the tension it might cause in Jordan and abroad in view of the Likud government's current policies.

During President Mubarak's visit to France last week the chief editor of LE FIGARO asked him if an Arab-Israeli war is likely and if the Middle East might return to what the newspaper called "the black days" of its history.

Such questions and the anxiety and fear they betray are not strange because the current political atmosphere in the region has put much pressure on the parties to the peace process, led to the adoption of different positions, and brought to the fore political scenarios that had been absent from the region for some time. All this happened after the Likud came to power and announced that it would not adhere to the principles on which the peace process was founded and the agreements that had been signed in line with these principles or implement the steps that should have been taken to complete this process.

In spite of all this, I still believe that things will not return to what they were before October 1991, when the peace process began in Madrid. There are causes and circumstances, which I mentioned earlier, that will limit the lengths to which the Likud government can go. Additionally the Arabs are dealing with breaking events in Israel with the effective stand that peace is a strategic option from which there can be no retreat. Many major countries that have direct interests in the region have a better understanding now of the previously vague picture of the general situation in the Middle East and are now more willing than before to take action to protect their interests in this region.

The strategic balance in the Middle East, much more than the military one, relies on a critical equation. It will not tolerate one party going to extremes to harm the other party's interests without harming himself badly and without leading to rearranging the network of regional ties and interactions in a different way. Therefore the region will not witness wars. But if the status quo remains and Israel's policy on the peaceful settlement process must rely on the Likud's declared positions, without radical change, the inevitable outcome will be a freezing of the peace process for several reasons, most importantly:

1. The Arab countries in general will not agree to go back to the beginning. The bases for a peaceful settlement have been established by four years of negotiations and endless problems have been overcome, beginning with handshaking, the formation of delegations, arranging of venues for negotiations, interpretation of international resolutions, and various talks.

After a long struggle agreement has been reached on the principle of land for peace, accords and treaties have been signed, and written and unwritten understandings have been concluded. I do not believe that any Arab party will tolerate going back to the issue of whether the Israeli prime minister will meet the Palestinian

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Authority chairman, as if this were a serious issue—as is perceived now. Nor will any Arab party tolerate possible argument about attempts by some in the Likud Party to propose what is dubbed Madrid 2 and other such trivialities. This road is closed and, in any case, the current state of affairs is better than going back to the past;

2. If the Likud government seeks to call for the resumption of negotiations without announcing commitment to the bases on which the peaceful settlement was founded, or based on a premise far from what has already been agreed upon on all the tracks, negotiations will not be useful, in my opinion.

The Israeli Government has devised a new glossy phrase indicating the possibility of resuming the negotiations without preconditions. What is meant by these conditions here is the bases of the peaceful settlement itself, such as the principle of land for peace or, for example, agreements on subjecting Jerusalem to negotiations on the Palestinian-Israeli track, or equal security arrangements on both sides of the border on the Syrian-Israeli track.

If the Likud government clings to this nonsense, the phrases of vicious circles, closed doors, and dark tunnels will reappear and the negotiations will be meaningless.

3. If the Likud government begins to put on pressure to begin the negotiations on the basis of its declared stand providing for administrative self-rule that applies to the population and not territory as a final solution to the Palestinian problem or if it refuses to return Syrian sovereignty to the Golan as a framework of understanding for that problem, there will be no incentive for the Palestinians or Syrians to begin the negotiations, unless either of them tacitly agrees to turn into a "defendant" in the view of their peoples or domestic forces. Moreover, there will be nothing for both parties to negotiate, because it would be assumed that the Palestinian negotiator would go to talks to again reach understanding on an agenda, and the Syrian delegation would go to the negotiations to hear a new Israeli concept of "peace" that they would obtain without the Golan. This is because the final goal of the negotiations for both the Palestinians and Syrians is one of the foundation of their legitimacy and no one is prepared to gamble on his legitimacy.

4. if the Likud government persists in its position without real change for a long time, this will lead to a halt in developing Arab-Israeli relations as an established fact, if not freeze them. The Israeli Government does not want to consider this issue seriously. There are forces within the Arab countries that restrict their governments even though these forces may not be political parties as they are understood in Western democracies, but they exist and are influential and may threaten political stability in the countries that go beyond or ignore particular limits. If the HA'ARETZ report is true, its significance must be clear. For it is difficult to assume that the Jordanian Government does not wish to develop ties with Israel. Despite this, sensitivities surrounding the region make the Jordanian Government dislike an Arab exception, something that may backfire with trouble and disturbances.

5. The Arab countries will not be led behind what I have previously called the diplomatic and political guerrilla wars that the Binyamin Netanyahu government is launching against them to disturb, preoccupy, shift focus, or change attention—the talk of Egypt's obtaining Scud missiles or parts of missiles from North Korea, accusing Syria of sheltering or instigating terrorists from various directions, brandishing threats to activate the pro-Israel lobby in the United States against Egyptian interests, or pressing the Palestinian Authority to dismantle its structure or foundations. We have grown used to these things and understand them. These tactics are dealt with directly, without uproar, provocation, or campaigns. The Arab countries' issue with the Israeli Government is clear and specific and governed by agreements, pledges, and timetables. Frankly speaking, the Arab countries are fed up with finding themselves in a position of self-defense regarding secondary issues and with being handled by provocative double standards while the substantive issues relating to their interests, security, and rights are ignored.

The question now is: What could happen in the region if there were no change in the Likud government's stands or if these stands remained unchanged for a long time, thus "freezing" the peace process, taking into consideration that war is not on the table? Naturally, there is no one answer. But all the answers point in one direction, which President Mubarak clearly explained in his interview with the French paper LE FIGARO lately. In the interview President Mubarak stated that the "reaction will be horrible." In the past few weeks I heard various expressions that all point to disturbing and frightening scenarios that the fragile conditions in the Middle East will not be able to endure. The effects of these scenarios will reach Israel, the Arab states, and the major states that have interests in the region. These effects could entail various patterns of conduct, including:

1. More political instability in the region. Terrorist actions directed against all the parties could increase.

2. An increase in acts of armed violence in the border regions between Israel and some Arab states beyond the control of these states.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

3. The possible outbreak of major popular revolts in the occupied territories or on the outskirts of these territories against all the parties.

4. An increase in the political tension between Israel and the region's countries as a result of [Israel's] diplomatic guerrilla wars should it insist on launching them.

5. Wider differences among the regional states over the issues that were the subject of the negotiations; the mere stagnation in these issues means a deterioration.

We can go on for ever adding lines to the disturbing scenario that could await the region if the Arab-Israeli peace process stagnates. But there is no point in spending too much time on this because the aspects of regional anxiety are clear and the signs of international concern are surfacing. The ball is in the Israeli court. To prevent further deterioration in the atmosphere of peace, the Likud government is required simply to voice its commitment to the obligations of the State of Israel and continue the peace process on the agreed-upon bases. Is this too difficult for the Israeli Government if it really wants to live peacefully among the regional countries under the obligations of a just peace, not the deformed peace that Israel is trying in vain to impose on the region?

Egypt: Interior Minister Says New Terrorist Plot Foiled

NC1907050296 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2150 GMT 18 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 18 Jul (MENA)—Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi revealed that the state's security services have foiled a new terrorist plot. But he refused to divulge any details in the interest of investigations and said the details will be released soon.

Commenting on the killing of an American female tourist at the Semiramis Hotel last Monday, al-Alfi said that it was an attack carried by a mentally deranged person, adding that similar attacks take place in some countries.

Speaking after inspecting the Police Academy's new installations today, the minister said that Egypt received recently a number of wanted criminals.

Egypt: Mubarak's Talks in Turkey Detailed

NC1707205396 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1855 GMT 17 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 17 Jul (MENA)—The Cairo weekly magazine AL-MUSAWWAR confirmed that President Husni Mubarak's talks during his recent visit to Turkey have succeeded in dispersing the "thick clouds" of mutual doubt which for a long time overshadowed Arab-Turkish relations. In his editorial on the issue to be published on Friday, AL-MUSAWWAR chief editor Makram Muhammad Ahmad said that President Mubarak's visit to Ankara underlined to the Turkish side the Arabs' eagerness for "close ties" between the two sides and that the problems existing between Turkey and some of its neighbors will not lead to Arab-Turkish enmity, because these problems can be solved through dialogue and not confrontation. AL-MUSAWWAR noted in this respect that great satisfaction prevails in Turkish circles after President Mubarak's visit succeeded in containing these differences before they grew. This success opened the way for mutual understanding, which will provide an opportunity for a more positive Turkish role in the peace process in the Middle East and rebuild bridges of common trust between the Arabs and the Turks.

AL-MUSAWWAR pointed out that President Mubarak's talks in Ankara addressed frankly and directly numerous suspicions on both sides, including the Arab worry about growth in Turkish-Israeli relations to the point of signing a military agreement between the two countries at a time when the peace process faced a difficult impasse as a result of the intransigence of the new Israeli Government led by Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu. AL-MUSAWWAR noted that a military agreement was signed at a time when Turkish-Syrian relations were worsening amidst mutual accusations, which did not allow an opportunity for a serious dialogue to end the differences between Syria and Turkey. Damascus accuses Turkey of controlling the Euphrates river waters and curtailing the shares of Syria and Iraq, while Turkey accuses Syria of using the Kurdish card to put pressure on it

AL-MUSAWWAR said that Turkish President Suleyman Demirel was eager at the beginning of his talks with President Mubarak to emphasize his country's eagerness to pursue a balanced policy between Israel and the Palestinians after the Madrid Peace Conference. Demirel said that Ankara supports the Palestinian issue and demands Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territory and giving the Palestinian people the right to determine their future. He said that Turkey was one of the first countries to recognize the state of Palestine when it was declared in 1988. AL-MUSAWWAR said that Demirel also stressed that the military cooperation agreement with Israel does not include secret clauses, that it is not directed against anyone, does not threaten any neighboring country, that Turkey will not be partner of Israel in any military operation, and that it is a NATO member and has a right to ask for NATO help if it wants and not Israel's help.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

AL-MUSAWWAR said that during his talks with President Mubarak, Demirel stressed his country's concern for preserving good relations with Arab countries, particularly its Arab neighbors. It said that Demirel explained Turkey's view of the crisis with Syria and that Demirel stressed that all Ankara is asking is that Syria not give a safe haven to PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan. It notes that Demirel asked President Mubarak to intervene to persuade Damascus of the need to create a positive atmosphere for a serious dialogue between the two countries. AL-MUSAWWAR said that President Mubarak stressed the need for both the Syrian and Turkish parties to sit down together to reach an agreement to achieve their interests and guarantee their common security. It said that President Mubarak promised Demirel that he will exert efforts with Syria to improve ties between Turkey and Syria, because escalation of the situation and the absence of dialogue may further complicate the problem.

AL-MUSAWWAR said that President Mubarak stressed during his talks with Demirel, Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan, and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller, Egypt's eagerness for healthy ties between Turkey and Arab countries, because it considers Turkey a regional country that plays an important role that may help enhance the peace process based on the-land-for peace formula. AL-MUSAWWAR said that President Mubarak expressed to the Turkish officials his understanding of the Turkish stand on terrorism, in view of the huge problems Turkey is suffering as a result of the escalation of acts of violence and subsequent drain on resources.

AL-MUSAWWAR disclosed that Erbakan, by virtue of his great love for Egypt and great appreciation for President Mubarak's historic leadership, proposed to President Mubarak to agree to a dialogue with the Muslim Brotherhood [MB]. Al-MUSAWWAR said that President Mubarak explained to the Turkish prime minister and leader of the Welfare Party that the MB is different from the Welfare Party, which complies with the principles of democracy and respects the legitimate framework of declared political action, renounces violence, and categorically rejects terrorism. AL-MUSAWWAR said that President Mubarak explained to Erbakan how the MB engaged in acts of violence throughout its history and that many of the groups that currently commit the ugliest crimes in the name of Islam and distort the tolerant religion have emerged from under the cloak of the MB. AL-MUSAWWAR said that President Mubarak confirmed to Erbakan that despite all signs that confirm the MB's complicity in acts of violence, the Egyptian Government does not resort to en masse arrest, does not convict anyone on suspicion, does not confiscate the freedom of any individual, and at the same time it does not interfere in the judiciary, which calls to account these individuals for the crimes they commit. AL-MUSAWWAR noted that President Mubarak called on Erbakan to be more vigilant and to try to realize the reality of these groups.

Egypt Prepares for Meeting of Front-Line States' Foreign Ministers

MM1807122496 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Jul 96 p 5

[Unattributed report: "Egypt Is Preparing for First Meeting of Front-Line States' Foreign Ministers Since 1993. Damascus and Beirut Agree To Participate"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — Cairo is preparing for the first meeting since 1993 of the foreign ministers of the Arab sides in the Israeli negotiations — known as the front-line states — in the wake of today's Cairo summit between Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

Informed Egyptian sources have said that the meeting of the ministers of the front-line states — which include Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and Palestine — will examine the adoption of a unified stand on dealings with Israel, in the light of the Cairo meeting.

The sources revealed that Damascus and Beirut are ready to participate in the meeting, in a reference to the coordination suspended in the wake of the Oslo Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

The sources said that the current climate of Arab relations since last month's Cairo Arab summit has made such meetings between these sides possible.

The sources also indicated that, in light of the Likud government's hard line and rejection of peace with the Arabs, all the front-line states are convinced that no one among them is in a better position than the other, especially after Jordan openly accused Israel of violating some of the terms of the peace treaty with regard to Jordan's water rights, a sign of tension in Jordanian-Israeli relations which has emerged for the first time between the two sides. This reflects Jordanian reservations about relations with Netanyahu's government.

The sources said that important talks between the front-line states will be held on the fate of the peace process on the one hand and the Arab approach to Arab-Israeli relations on the other.

The sources also added that the talks will also center on the nature of the Arab move that could be used as

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

a means of exerting pressure on Israel to comply with the frameworks of legitimacy in the peace process.

The talks will also examine new developments in the Arab arena and reconciliation and cooperation issues, and will also consider ways to help the Palestine National Authority [PNA] cope with the new Israeli pressures, such as the continuation of the blockade on the self-rule areas, and the deterioration in the economic and social conditions of the Palestinians in the occupied Palestinian territories.

Some prominent Arab political circles recently spoke about important summit meetings to be hosted by Damascus, whereby the Jordanian monarch, King Husayn, and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat will visit Damascus for bilateral meetings with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, with a view to achieving reconciliation and resolving the disputes between Syria and Jordan and between Syria and the PNA.

Egyptian President Husni Mubarak had led the reconciliation efforts between these sides on the fringes of last month's Cairo summit.

Egypt: U.S. Worried by Possible Egyptian-Syrian-Iranian Alliance

NC1707140596 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 9 Jul 96 pp 1, 8

[Report by Mahmud Bakri: "Washington Accuses Egypt, Syria, and Iran of Seeking To Form a Military Alliance in the Region"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A state of extreme panic swept U.S. Administration circles because of the Syrian mediation between Egypt and Iran.

Urgent U.S.-Israeli-Turkish contacts were held as soon as news of this mediation was leaked — a mediation that made great progress in light of Iranian responses to the Syrian proposals, which were conveyed to President Mubarak during Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar's recent private visit to Cairo. The three parties agreed that Syria is seeking to form a military alliance in the region between the three countries (Egypt, Iran, and Syria) and that this alliance will be an offensive one, aiming to counter the Turkish- Israeli military agreement.

The State Department prepared a report in which it noted that if this alliance is established, it will upset U.S. strategic balances in the region. It called for relying on an offensive strategy, in cooperation with Israel, to strike at and confront this alliance.

The U.S. intelligence service claimed that the military alliance will take the form of a secret partnership between Iran, Egypt, and Syria, and that preparing the necessary strategies for confronting it must be done immediately.

As soon as Egypt heard of the U.S. concern, which reached an unprecedented level, it contacted the U.S. Administration through diplomatic channels and told Washington that it is not seeking to establish a military axis with Iran and Syria. Egypt called for viewing the security situations in the region from two angles: the angle of the vast Israeli military arsenal and the angle of the Turkish-Israeli military agreement.

Reports say that the U.S. Administration has decided to discuss the issue and consequences of the Syrian mediation between Egypt and Iran with President Mubarak during the latter's coming visit to Washington.

Syria's efforts have succeeded in achieving a measure of understanding between Egypt and Iran. Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq Al-Shar' conveyed to President Mubarak Iran's strong desire to build unique ties with Egypt based on mutual respect. Iran also accepted the basic Egyptian principles for improving ties between the two countries.

Al-Shar' stressed that Iran has no objection to the formulation of these principles, within the framework of an Egyptian-Iranian memorandum of understanding. The concept prepared by Egypt included the following principles:

1. Non-interference in internal affairs in any form whatsoever.

2. Mutual respect for the principles of foreign policy.

3. Action to resolve the Iranian disputes with Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates through cordial means and in a way that ensures the restoration of cordiality between Iran and these two countries.

4. Non-intensification of Iranian military cooperation with neighboring countries (Sudan) in a way that threatens Egypt's national security.

5. Denunciation of terrorism and terrorist groups and the adoption of joint policies to encircle and contain these organizations.

The report added that Iran considered these principles to be "normal," not constituting Egyptian preconditions, and that agreement on the details of these five principles could be agreed on in a way that ensures the restoration of Egyptian-Iranian relations as soon as meetings are held between Egyptian and Iranian officials.

Iran also stressed that it is willing to accept the Egyptian role in cases of Iranian disputes with the Arab countries.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Iranian officials noted that they want to link their national security to security in the region, so that any threats in these Arab countries would not adversely affect Iran's security.

In its mediation, Syria sought to arrange meetings between the two countries foreign ministers, 'Amr Musa and 'Ali Akbar Velayati, in the presence of the Syrian foreign minister. But President Mubarak's statement last Sunday, and the statements made last Saturday by Dr. Usamah al-Baz, director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, ruling out an Egyptian-Iranian meeting at the ministers' level froze this mediation temporarily in view of the state of concern that swept U.S. and Israeli circles.

Egypt: Muslim Brotherhood Leader Interviewed

MM1707145796 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Jul 96 p 2

[Interview with Mustafa Mashhur, general guide of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt, by 'Abduh Zaynah in Cairo; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Zaynah] How do you view the Islamic Welfare Party's assumption of power in Turkey for the first time in its history?

[Mashhur] The Welfare Party's victory in heading the government in Turkey is not strange because Turkey is a Muslim country where Islamic caliphate rule lasted a long time and was the target of plots aimed at overthrowing it and turning Turkey into a secular state. Severe measures were taken to distance Turkey and its people from Islam, but that did not last because the Islamic faith is deep-rooted in people's hearts. Even if that faith was smothered for a while in some people, it cannot be smothered forever. The Welfare Party's participation is not new. It is continuous and its effectiveness escalated until it reached the premiership as a result of the recent elections. That provides the evidence that the Islamic identity cannot die. The proof is that Necmettin Erbakan reached the premiership by peaceful and democratic means through honest elections. It is, therefore, hoped that Erbakan will be able to apply Islamic values according to circumstances, because Islam is the ideal solution to the problems of mankind. Communism, socialism, capitalism, nationalism, and secularism are all man-made and cannot resolve the world's crises.

[Zaynah] Everyone is aware of the close links between the Welfare Party and the Muslim Brotherhood [MB] in Egypt. Will that link play a part in bridging Arab-Turkish views, bearing in mind the current problems?

[Mashhur] It is true that we enjoy good relations and some kind of closeness because we work for an all-embracing Islam, just as they do, but each country's circumstances are different. The circumstances in Turkey are different from the circumstances in Egypt. That does not mean that we should interfere in Turkey's internal affairs or impose on it something unsuited to its circumstances. Islam itself embraces the value of rapprochement between the Arab and Islamic states, and I believe that the Welfare Party will adjust its affairs of government to its circumstances. The hope is that there will be rapprochement with the Arab states without exposing them [the Turks] to pressures restricting their movement and activities. But we believe that Erbakan fully appreciates the situation.

[Zaynah] The Israeli-Turkish military agreement has aroused fears in the Arab states that security and peace in the region might be undermined and that that might pose a threat that the region will be dragged toward the formula of blocs. Could the MB play a part in trying to persuade the Turkish prime minister to reexamine the feasibility of that agreement?

[Mashhur] There can be no doubt that the Israeli-Turkish agreement is dangerous. We feel that the Jews want their arm to reach Iran, Iraq, Syria, and others, but we cannot ask the Turkish prime minister to tackle that agreement in any particular way, because these are internal affairs. But at the same time we believe that, because of his Islamic line, he can see the danger of that alliance with the Zionist enemy and he knows the true nature of that enemy and its hostility toward and hatred of Arabs and Muslims. We believe he will adjust his circumstances to achieve what can be achieved at this stage. Let me point out that the mere fact that an Islamic party has reached power is not enough to change the wrong and anti-Islam conditions overnight, but it must be given the full opportunity to evaluate the situation. We will not ask Erbakan to take any particular stand on that alliance, because that is his business, and he makes the assessment without us guiding him.

[Zaynah] We do not mean making a request, but is there a message or a call for a reconsideration of the agreement?

[Mashhur] The Turkish prime minister has stated: "We will honor international agreements unless they are prejudicial to Turkish security."

[Zaynah] And do you believe that agreement is harmful to Turkish security?

[Mashhur] I believe so, because the Zionist enemy does not harbor good intentions toward any Arab or Islamic country, and, therefore, it would not want what is good for Turkey and wants to exploit it to strike at or threaten the Arab states. We do not believe that the Turkish

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Government is unaware of that, and it is bound to take it into consideration when assessing the matter. We also should not forget that Israel does not stand alone behind that agreement and that Europe, the United States, and secularism in Turkey are also behind it. I expect that Islamic sense will influence Erbakan in his handling of that issue.

[Zaynah] It has been reported that the MB is willing to intercede for the resolution of the Syrian-Turkish crisis and the Iraqi-Turkish crisis. How true is that?

[Mashhur] These reports are not true. We do not interfere at all in these matters, but we wish the Arab and Islamic states would meet to resolve these crises and to cooperate against their main enemy.

[Zaynah] The MB has more than once, via its general guide, called for Arab unity and for a stronger Arab front against U.S.- Israeli anti-Arab actions. How do you assess the Arab summit conference held recently in Cairo, its results, and the consensus it reflected on fateful issues?

[Mashhur] We have welcomed and saw good tidings in that summit, which tried to unite Arab ranks against their common enemy. I hope that will be achieved, bearing in mind the Israeli attempts to single out each of the cordon states and deal with it separately, as was the case with Egypt, then Palestine, then Jordan, followed by the attempts to put pressure on Syria and Lebanon, the aim being to make the cordon states the primary guard for the main enemy. One of the main positive aspects of the summit was the concurrent attempt to resolve Arab differences. We hope such attempts will continue in order to eliminate all differences, and we call for a unified position because that would have an effect on the enemy and on the United States. Perhaps the enemy's reaction and annoyance after the summit reflect the effectiveness of [the summit] not responding to separate solutions and mean that the unified stand should remain the main feature in the future because it amounts to unified Arab world power.

[Zaynah] The Palestinian question remains the main preoccupation of the Arab nation. How do you view the future of that issue while the intransigent Likud Party holds power in Israel? What is your assessment of the role of the Palestinian Authority [PA] in the light of the new changes?

[Mashhur] The Palestinian cause is the pivotal cause of the Arabs and Muslims. We see good tidings in the advent of the Likud because it has exposed the falsehood of Peres and exposed the deception and intrigue. That is capitulation, not peace. It is inconceivable that a few million should occupy the land of others in the midst of hundreds of millions of Arabs and Muslims. That exposure is a great gain for the Arabs because it tells the Arab governments that there can be no peace with such colonialist intentions. I say that the Arab governments should respond to their peoples and prepare them in order to be able to count on their support when confronting the enemy. I do not believe that the enemy wants war because it holds life most dearly. That is why we should make it feel that we are ready to fight it if necessary, and I believe that victory will be ours.

Now that the enemy's intentions, practices against and starvation of the Palestinians, and refusal to withdraw have been exposed to the PA, and now that it has become clear that the aim was to exploit the PA and the minimal self-rule to strike at the Islamic resistance, the PA should wake up, should not assist the crackdown on the national resistance, should release the Hamas and other Islamic movement detainees, and should not be a tool fulfilling the will of the Zionist enemy.

[Zaynah] The Arab summit produced broad Arab rapprochement, especially Egyptian-Sudanese rapprochement. How do you view the situation, and will relations be restored to what they used to be?

[Mashhur] I believe that the Egyptian-Sudanese differences are artificial and not deep-rooted, and I believe that there are those who are trying to undermine these strong links. I believe that Sudan has initiated clear steps to get rid of any elements suspected of being terrorist elements, which means that it cares about Egypt's security. Egypt should respond in order to consolidate these relations.

[Zaynah] The Egyptian Interior Ministry has recently repeatedly accused the MB of seeking power by legitimate and other means, and claimed that all terrorist organizations emerged from the MB's cloak and that it uses religion as a cover for the fulfillment of old dreams. How does the MB view and assess these charges?

[Mashhur] We do not seek power for power's sake or for ourselves, but we call for the implementation of the Islamic Shari'ah [law]. If the government implemented the Shari'ah, we would be its soldiers and its followers. The charges that we resort to illegal means, violence, and so on are false and unfounded because our method is known to be one of moderation and of advocating God's cause with wisdom and good advice. The charge that terrorism emerged from the MB's cloak is devoid of any truth. We do not force anyone to remain a member of the MB if he wishes to leave it. Nor do we condone violence. The proof is that in the many terrorist incidents that have occurred, such as the military technical [college] incident, the assassination of al-Shaykh al- Dhahabi, the assassination of al-Sadat, and

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

the incidents of [attacks on] the tourists and the Copts, not a single MB member took part, and we challenge anyone to prove otherwise. We also condemned and issued statements against these actions.

The truth, however, is that the government is trying in every way to tarnish the MB's image because it senses public opinion's response to the MB and because it fears the MB getting enough votes in any honest elections, which would make it impossible for the National [Democratic] Party [NDP] to remain in power.

I maintain that the government fears the MB more than it fears the armed groups because of the MB's strength with public opinion.

[Zaynah] Does that mean that the tension between the MB and the government will continue indefinitely?

[Mashhur] For our part, we do not provoke anyone, and nobody can lure us into any particular position. We are eager to demonstrate our moderation to public opinion. We will not violate the laws and legislation. We are detached from violence and terrorism because the method of violence does not belong in Islam in any way, which is why we have not adopted and will not adopt it. It is clear, however, that the government is trying to provoke us and imagines that its pressures will force our youth to commit irresponsible acts, but that is absolutely impossible.

[Zaynah] There have been some reports about international coordination to expose and hit the aims and plans of the MB's international organization. What are the international dimensions of the MB's international organization, and have any such blows been dealt to any of its aspects?

[Mashhur] I want to explain something about the story of the MB's international organization they keep repeating. It is that at the time of the MB's plight at the hands of 'Abd-al-Nasir, many left Egypt and spread out in numerous countries. Youths who responded to the MB's views rallied around them because these views represented Islam and nothing else. And so several groupings emerged in various countries on the basis of the MB's ideology, and they were seen as an international organization, but they are just groupings joined by their sound understanding of Islam.

[Zaynah] But, in the final analysis, these groupings are products of the MB.

[Mashhur] These groupings are not subject to the MB's leadership in Egypt and they do not follow its instructions, but they are subject to the local circumstances in the countries to which they belong. Like us, they also call for implementation of the Shari'ah.

[Zaynah] Is there any coordination between these groupings and the mother group?

[Mashhur] There is no coordination, but when we meet at a general conference — such as the ones held in Turkey or elsewhere — all meet and get acquainted with each other's circumstances, but not in the sense of an international organization or guidelines and orders of a leadership.

[Zaynah] The case of the al-Wasat [Middle] Party has imposed itself on the political arena in Egypt despite the fact that hundreds of plans to form parties begin and end without anyone knowing anything about them. In your view, why has the case of al-Wasat caused such clamor?

[Mashhur] The cause of that clamor is the fact that what happened to the MB in the parliamentary elections in the form of detentions and forgery was unprecedented. Referring members to military tribunals triggered vast international reactions to the government's position. So when the al-Wasat Party came as the official means of expressing the MB views, that helped create an international wave, and that is how it got the reputation of belonging to the MB, because of the government's intransigence with us and its denying us the right to form an Islamic party on the pretext that this could lead to sectarian sedition if the Christians made a similar request. But that is a false claim because our relations with the Copts have been good and sound for a long time, since the days of Imam Hasan al-Banna. The fact that the al-Wasat Party relied on the MB's broad base in public work and in the society gave it that attention, unlike the other baseless projects.

[Zaynah] Does that mean that if the government agreed to allow the MB to form a party, it would have Copts joining it?

[Mashhur] If there are Copts who accept the MB program and accept the principle that Islam is the solution, why should we not agree to have them with us?

[Zaynah] Frankly, does the al-Wasat Party represent the MB?

[Mashhur] No, al-Wasat does not represent the MB.

[Zaynah] As it does not represent the MB, why does the MB refuse to let its members go along with its founding plan, instead of taking a neutral stand? And how do you see the fate of that plan, and would its end be at the hands of the MB?

[Mashhur] The end of al-Wasat will not be at the hands of the MB because the government will not

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

approve of it anyway. What happened was that an organizational violation was committed by some MB members in the foundation of al-Wasat because they acted unsoundly behind the leadership's back. We do not accept such violations, because leniency on our part could mean repetition and that could expose the MB to fragmentation and division. To correct that violation, we announced that the party did not represent the MB. That, frankly, is our position.

[Zaynah] After the correction of the organizational violation, will the MB members' authorizations withdrawn from the list of al-Wasat founders be submitted to the Parties Court or will the MB be satisfied with its members' compliance with the correction of the mistake, without making any submissions.

[Mashhur] That would depend on the circumstances, and if it became necessary to submit the authorizations we would do so.

[Zaynah] What would make that necessary?

[Mashhur] If there is an insistence by those making the complaint on attributing the party to the MB and claiming MB support for it, then we would state our frank position by submitting the authorizations.

[Zaynah] Meaning that if the party founders declared that the party is detached from the MB, you would not submit the authorizations.

[Mashhur] Yes, that may be so. The founders might perhaps themselves abandon the project or the court might reject it, and that would be the end of it.

[Zaynah] The military tribunals have become a nightmare for the MB. How do you think that nightmare will end, and do you expect more such trials?

[Mashur] Had the charges made against the brothers who were sent before military tribunals been made before civilian courts they would have been completely acquitted. We want to see even a single piece of evidence that we tried to seek power by force or that we incited the public against the government. The government's attitude toward us is clear. It is one of continuing to pressure, silence, and try to destroy the MB, which, of course, will never happen because our faith is in our hearts controlled only by God.

The government has brought one group of people to trial, and they were sentenced. Now it is bringing another group to trial and yet another might face the same fate, but all that will not keep us from adhering to our Islamic line. We consider everything that happens to us in the line of our duty to God to be good.

[Zaynah] The MB came out of the parliamentary elections and the vocational unions were no longer under its control. Is it still trying to compensate for its successive losses by mobilizing its energies for the local elections scheduled for the end of this year?

[Mashhur] Local elections are different from parliamentary elections. They do not have the effective political role in society. Our participation in them will, therefore, be limited and we will not direct the brothers to run for them as a matter of necessity, but we will leave it to them and their circumstances.

Morocco

Morocco: Paper Warns 'Separatists' Against Jeopardizing Peace Plan

LD1807203396 Rabat AL-'ALAM in Arabic 14 Jul 96 p 1

[Unattributed Article: "The Separatists Have Resumed Their Warmongering at Algeria's Instigation; Morocco Will Repulse Any Aggression"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Following a green light from their protectors in Algeria, the separatists have reiterated that they may try and carry out their doomed threats against Moroccan Sahara despite the fact that they are aware that Morocco will, as in the past, repulse any attack against its territorial integrity and the security of its citizens in its Saharan provinces.

Separatist Mohamed Abdelaziz [Polisario leader] claimed in an interview with Radio France Internationale [RFI] that the cease-fire is a part and a parcel of the peace plan. And if the latter irretrievably collapses, the separatists will have no option but to resort to what he called the armed struggle.

Abdelaziz lied further, in line with the pack of lies which he has been telling since he was appointed by Algeria as head of the separatists, that the UN peace plan failed for lack of Moroccan cooperation since [he] and the separatists had agreed to all the demands made by the UN's secretary general.

The separatists should know that it was them who, at Algeria's instigation, obstructed the UN's efforts to organize a referendum and thereby torpedoed the UN's peace plan. Some of the hurdles which the separatists have thrown in front of the peace plan can be summarized in their rejection of the five criteria, laid down by the UN's secretary general, which would-be voters in the referendum have to meet, and in their procrastination to cooperate with the UN Identification Commission as soon as the latter began its task in August 1994 after having failed to stop the identification process.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The UN decided, however, to include in its identification process everyone who made their application within the specified time limit, and ruled, at the same time, that the separatists had no right to object to its decision to consider the applications of all people who thought they were entitled to take part in the referendum.

However, Algeria helped the separatists' maneuvers to derail the UN plan. And the separatists' negative attitude forced the UN's secretary general to withdraw members of the UN Identification Commission. The separatists' behavior has thus jeopardized the UN's peace plan.

Once the separatists' role in jeopardizing the peace plan has become apparent, they resorted to the threat to resume aggression although they are fully aware that any such an act will be repulsed vigorously by Morocco which will firmly defend its land and the security of its citizens.

The separatists have jeopardized the UN's peace plan in the hope that they will be able to continue to take advantage of the plight of the people who have been taken hoges and kept in the Hamada camps [near the Algerian town of Tindouf] and to make them an issue in their political and military war against Morocco, a war which is doomed thanks to Moroccans' steadfastness and commitment to the fact that the Sahara is an integral part of Morocco.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia: Progress Seen in Saudi Mediation Between Bahrain, Qatar

MM1707133696 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 17 Jul 96 pp 1,6

[Report by 'Abdallah Nasir al-Shahri: "Progress in Saudi Mediation Between Manama and Doha"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jeddah — Gulf sources confirmed to AL-HAYAH yesterday that Saudi mediation efforts between Qatar and Bahrain to resolve their dispute over the Hawar and Fasht al-Dibal islands have produced an agreement on "the suspension of the media campaigns and the accusations exchanged between Doha and Manama as a first step toward completing the endeavors, since the next few days are expected to witness further meetings and direct contacts between Riyadh and both Manama and Doha."

Bahraini Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah concluded a lightning visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia yesterday. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia: New Top Grade Oil Reserves Discovered South of Riyadh

LD1807084896 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2230 GMT 17 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency Engineer 'Ali Bin-Ibrahim al-Nu'aymi, minister of oil and mineral resources, announced that the Saudi oil company Saudi-Aramco yesterday, 16 July 1966, discovered new top grade Arab oil reserves in the central region of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

He said in a statement to the SAUDI NEWS AGENCY [SPA]: The oil well Usaylah-1, the drilling of which started in June 1996, has produced an estimated 2,420 barrels of sweet [hulu] oil per day, the density of which amounts to 49.4 grades of the American oil academy grades.

He added that Usaylah-1 is about 235 km south of the city of Riyadh, close to Umm Jarf oil field and 13 km northwest of Layla oil field.

His excellency the minister of oil and mineral resources said in his statement to SNA that the discovery of Usaylah-1 oil well comes as an extension to the discoveries in al-Hawtah area. It is also considered Saudi-Aramco's 14th discovery of top grade Arab oil and the gas field in the central region.

He pointed out that the Saudi-Aramco company aims to carry out more assessment of the well to verify the amounts of its oil reserves.

Bahrain

Bahrain: Aide Satisfied With Saudi Mediation; No 'Real Progress' Yet

MM1807103296 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Jul 96 pp 1, 4

[Report by Wafa'i Diyab in London and AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Manama: "Bahrain: New Spirit in Resolving Dispute With Qatar"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Bahraini Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah has expressed his complete satisfaction with the results of his visit to Saudi Arabia and his talks with Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz. Shaykh Khalifah paid a visit to Saudi Arabia the day before yesterday, and held talks which focused on the dispute with Qatar over Hawar islands. Bahraini Cabinet Affairs and Information Minister Muhammad Ibrahim al-Mutawwa', who accompanied Shaykh Khalifah on his visit to Saudi Arabia, told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday about "the new spirit which dominates all sides with a view to reaching a satisfactory solution." At its meeting in Doha the Qatari Council of Ministers considered the developments in the crisis, and stressed that the withdrawal of the case from the [International] Court of Justice hinges on the success of the Saudi mediation. [passage omitted]

Bahraini Cabinet Affairs and Information Minister Ibrahim al- Mutawwa' lauded the outcome of the talks that he and Shaykh Khalifah held in Saudi Arabia.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT he said that the talks "have been very successful," and praised in this regard "the Saudi leadership's understanding of the Bahraini position." He said: "The welcome and favorable response that we have felt during the talks with the Saudi leadership is cause for pleasure and satisfaction."

On what the Saudi mediation has been able to achieve so far Minister al-Mutawwa' said: "We cannot say that real progress has been made. Nevertheless, there is certainly a good understanding of the problem." He spoke about "a new spirit dominating all sides with a view to reaching a satisfactory solution stemming from the spirit of cooperation and brotherhood which prevails within the GCC states and their people." [passage omitted]

Bahrain: Opposition Reports on Continued Clashes, Arrests

JN1907102496 (Internet) Voice of Bahrain WWW in English 19 Jul 96

[Voice of Bahrain is a London-based Bahraini opposition source]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The uprising areas of Bahrain continue to witness clashes in response to the atrocities

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

of the foreign-staffed security forces. Columns of fire were seen in many parts of the country. Clashes with security forces were reported in Sitrah, Karranah, al-Muqsha', and Jamrah. These clashes have intensified every night since the arbitrary sentencing of three innocent people to death on 1 July.

In Jamrah, security forces stormed houses and arrested Maytham 'Umran, 16; his brother Husayn (Their father 'Umran Husayn 'Umran is in detention since last January); Mahmud Muhammad Mahdi al-Ghasra, 19; Ahmad Salih 'Ali Muhammad, 19; Husayn Ahmad 'Ali al-Turayfi, 21; and 'Aqil Salih.

United Arab Emirates

United Arab Emirates: Bosnian Soldiers Arrive for Training

JN1807145196 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0600 GMT 18 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Abu Dhabi, 18 Jul (WAKH)—The first batch of Bosnia-Herzegovina Army personnel arrived in Abu Dhabi today to receive training on the military equipment granted by the United Arab Emirates [UAE] Army as part of effort to retrain and rearm the Bosnian Army.

The personnel will receive weapons for two artillery battalions, which is the first shipment of military aid from the UAE Army to the Bosnian Army. These weapons will be sent to the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina at the end of the training period.

The Bosnian trainees were transported aboard a UAE Air Force military plane, which took off from Sarajevo Airport yesterday.

Kuwait

Kuwait: Defense Minister, U.S. General Discuss Kuwaiti Security

LD1707194196 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Defense Minister Shaykh Ahmad al-Hamud al-Jabir al-Sabah received General John Binford Peay, chief of the U.S. Central Command, in his office today. The meeting revolved around bilateral relations and military issues of mutual interest and emphasized the U.S. commitment to security in the Gulf, in general, and in Kuwait, in particular, to repel any attack from Iraq.

Kuwait: Ministry Official Briefs EU Envoys on Ministerial Meeting

LD1607192196 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1716 GMT 16 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait City, 16 Jul — Sulayman Majid al-Shahin, Foreign Ministry undersecretary, met the heads of the diplomatic missions of the EU member states to Kuwait today and discussed with them the outcome of the meeting held recently in Muscat by the foreign ministers of the signatories of the Damascus Declaration.

An official source at the Foreign Ministry told the Kuwaiti News Agency, KUNA, that Shahin and the European diplomats had also discussed issues of common interest and the latest regional and international developments.

This meeting is part of the regular meetings Shahin holds with the heads of the missions of the EU member states. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

United Arab Emirates: Bosnian Soldiers Arrive for Training

JN1807145196 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0600 GMT 18 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Abu Dhabi, 18 Jul (WAKH)—The first batch of Bosnia-Herzegovina Army personnel arrived in Abu Dhabi today to receive training on the military equipment granted by the United Arab Emirates [UAE] Army as part of effort to retrain and rearm the Bosnian Army.

The personnel will receive weapons for two artillery battalions, which is the first shipment of military aid from the UAE Army to the Bosnian Army. These weapons will be sent to the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina at the end of the training period.

The Bosnian trainees were transported aboard a UAE Air Force military plane, which took off from Sarajevo Airport yesterday.

Yemen

Yemen: Deputy Prime Minister Confers With Iraqi Ambassador on Ties

JN1607182696 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Deputy Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Wahhabab al-Anisi received Dr. Ibrahim Khalil, ambassador of the Republic of Iraq in Sanaa. Discussions dealt with bilateral fraternal relations and ways of bolstering and developing them.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Iraq: UN Secretary General Approves Food Plan

JN1807164596 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1624 GMT 18 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The United Nations, 18 Jul (INA)—The UN secretary general today approved the distribution plan presented by Iraq in accordance with the memorandum of understanding. UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali personally delivered an official letter to this effect to Ambassador Dr. 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari during a meeting at the secretary general's office this afternoon.

In the presence of Ambassador al-Anbari, Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali said he is very happy to endorse the distribution plan because it is compatible with the memorandum of understanding. Dr. Butrus-Ghali said the plan gives new momentum to implement the formula of oil for food, medicine, and other basic needs.

Dr. al-Anbari thanked the UN secretary general and his assistant, Garikhan, for their support and assistance in implementing the second step between the UN General Secretariat and Iraq.

Iraq: Ship Arrives at Umm Qasr Port With Wheat From Qatar

JN1807183696 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Jul 96

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] A ship loaded with 10,000 tonnes of wheat, sent as a gift from the sisterly State of Qatar, arrived at Umm Qasr Port today.

Iraq: Saddam Establishes Sale Prices for Maize Seeds

JN1807194996 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 27 Jun 96 pp 1, 6

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad (INA)—Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve and protect him, has ordered that the sale prices of maize seeds to peasants and farmers should be as follows:

1. Basic seeds: 250,000 dinars per tonne.

2. Registered seeds: 225,000 dinars per tonne.

3. Approved hybrid seeds: 200,000 dinars per tonne.

His excellency has also ordered that the state will assume the difference between the purchase and sale prices of the above seeds without adding any administrative charges or profits and that seeds from the previous (1994-95) season will be sold first and the difference in price will revert to the state treasury.

Iraq: Opposition Reports 'Udayy's Absence at Anniversary

JN1807200196 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1215 GMT 18 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The celebrations of the tyrant's [reference to Saddam Husayn] regime on the 28th anniversary of the black 17 July [1968] coup over the past two days reflected the magnitude of differences and conflicts among authorities and the ruling family.

'Udayy, the tyrant's eldest son, did not show up to congratulate his father on this occasion, in protest against his being stripped of some posts and security and military duties recently. These posts and duties were transferred to his brother, Qusayy, in the wake of the reported fears by the tyrant about possible military action by 'Udayy to enhance his position in the government.

In addition, some Armed Forces Command members and senior officials in the ruling party command did not attend the ceremony designed to extend congratulations to the tyrant on 17 July. It is likely that they were being held or had been arrested as part of the ongoing campaign against members of the military organization who recently tried to topple the Saddamist regime.

Iraq: Yeltsin Congratulates Saddam on Revolution Anniversary

JN1707205096 Baghdad INA in English 1320 GMT 17 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Jul 17, INA—President Saddam Husayn has been greeted by a number of world leaders on the 28th anniversary of the July 17-30, 1968 revolution.

Greetings came from presidents of Russia, South Korea, and Tunisia.

In a telegram of congratulation, President Boris Yeltsin of Russia said he was confident that while Iraq is making progress in the process of implementing Security Council resolutions, it can overcome the current difficulties.

For its part, Russia will keep up its efforts to accelerate a solution to Iraq's situation as well as the country's return to the international community, said Yeltsin.

He expressed confidence that Russian-Iraqi relations will develop in the common interest of both countries and stability in the region.

President Yeltsin wished the people and leadership of Iraq peace and progress.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Iraq: Turkish Warplanes Bomb Villages in Iraqi Kurdistan

NC1807182096 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 July 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In another aggression by Turkish forces on the Iraqi Kurdistan region, two Turkish warplanes at 1400 [1100 GMT] today bombed the area of [Botayo] near Raniyah town in al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate for one hour. Last week 10 Turkish warplanes bombed villages in the area of Dolahraqah, near the town of Raniyah, wounding many innocent citizens.

Iraq: Kuwaiti Boats 'Encroachment' on Waters Protested to UN

JN1707195496 Baghdad INA in English 1310 GMT 17 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] U.N., New York, Jul 17, INA—Iraq has protested against encroachment by a Kuwaiti patrol boats upon Iraq's territorial waters and seizing, under threat, an Iraqi fishing boat which was fishing within Iraqi territorial waters.

In a letter to the UN secretary general, the Iraqi permanent representative said the Kuwaiti patrol took al-Sadiq trawler to a site near Faylakah island on the Kuwaiti side where the crew were severely beaten and tortured to the extent of mutilation.

He added that gunmen carrying G.C. [name as received] rifles threatened the 12 unarmed fishermen of the Iraqi trawler.

The Iraq UN representative asked the secretary general to interfere to stop such Kuwaiti violations and provocative acts which started to be repeated inside the Iraqi territorial waters in a way that violated the UN Charter and rules of international law.

He stressed Iraq's right to compensation for damage inflicted upon its citizens and their property as a result of that aggressive act.

Iraq: Column Says Saudi Resistance to U.S. Presence To Continue

JN1907105896 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 1 Jul 96 p 2

["Standpoint" column by Sabri Hammadah: "America, the Helpless Power"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On more than one issue and one incident, and in more than one spot in the international arena; and despite the fact that it is still using brutal force in order to enforce its will and domination over others, the United States is being dealt one defeat after another. Despite its renowned military power, the United States actually stands helpless in defending its installations and forces abroad and achieving the objectives of its foreign policy; furthermore, its influence and domination over the international community are also receding.

These words are not exaggeration or wishful thinking. The signs and illustrations of the failure and helplessness of U.S. policy these days are many and frequent. If the al-Khubar explosion in Saudi Arabia has been a crushing and costly blow that has shaken U.S. strategy at its very roots, no doubt Clinton's failure to secure an endorsement of the policy of embargoes and sanctions against whole nations during the summit of the seven industrial states, is new, tangible proof about the decline and recession of U.S. influence. Otherwise, since when have the allies rejected such a small U.S. request?

The problem with the United States is that it does not want to see the facts according to reality. It also does not try to understand international crises and conflicts with all their complications and historical, social, and cultural dimensions. Furthermore, it does not want to learn any lessons, even from its most recent experiences. The power of force continues to be a firm line in its foreign policy as it persists, with or without reasons, in threatening other states by direct interference or use of force in order to guarantee its illegitimate interests. It also tries always to monopolize the position of leadership in facing or dealing with any international issues without due consideration for anyone, even its closest allies.

For example, the United States occupies the holy territory of the Arabian Peninsula and continues to suck and plunder its oil resources. Despite all that it is doing, it ignores the fact that there is a growing popular opposition and a resistance to its military presence. It does not want to understand that the internal opposition, which planned and carried out the Riyadh explosion last November, and the al-Khubar explosion a few days ago, will continue to plan and set off explosions against the U.S. military presence as long as it remains, and also as long as the Saudi regime refuses to respond to the Saudi people's legitimate ambitions and aspirations for reform, modernization, and social progress.

The failures of U.S. economic and military policies across the international arena are the sole responsibility of the U.S. Administration itself, because they are the creation of its own hands, the fruit of its aggressiveness and arrogance, and the mistake of its foreign policy. No doubt these failures and defeats will continue to accumulate and increase as long as the United States refuses to reconsider its policy and persists in its

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

aggressive line and crimes against peoples. No doubt, also, this line will only lead to more shocks, setbacks, and losses.

If the United States thinks that its military power will enable it to enforce its dictatorship on others and fulfill its dream of playing the role of international policeman, it is grossly mistaken. Proof is that it has been defeated in more than one war and encounter with states and peoples that do not possess one hundredth of its military power. It has been defeated in Vietnam. It has also been defeated in Iraq, and it has failed to achieve its objectives, while Iraq has remained strong and lofty defying its embargo and conspiratorial plans. No doubt the Clinton administration has not forgotten the defenseless, hungry Somalis forced the U.S. invasion forces to retreat and withdraw!

Iraq: Arab League Chief Asserts Importance of Country's 'Power'

JN1807130196 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1137 GMT 18 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 18 Jul (INA) — Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid asserted that Iraq is an important and basic pillar in the Arab homeland and in promoting joint Arab action and achieving the higher Arab interests. In a statement to INA correspondent in Cairo, he said: Iraq's power is an effective and considerable power on the Arab arena. Resuming the role of this power is important and vital, and we hope it will succeed to defend the Arab rights.

He added: Lifting the embargo against Iraq and alleviating its suffering is essential, and will contribute to creating Arab solidarity to confront the challenges posed to the nation.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid asserted the Arab League's keenness to maintain Iraq's territorial integrity and unity of its people. He stressed the Arab league's rejection of anything to the contrary. He noted: We share Iraq's happiness in its commemoration of its 28th national day, wishing Iraq and its people further progress and prosperity in order to contribute to the march of joint Arab action.

Iraq: Government Said To Request Return of Evacuated Airplanes

MM1707123496 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Jul 96 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Iraq Requests Return of Its Aircraft"]

[FBIS Translated Text] An Iraqi Government source has said that Iraq has demanded that its civilian aircraft in a number of Arab and foreign capitals be returned to Iraqi airports. The source told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT's correspondent in Amman that Iran has refused to return to Iraq its civilian and military aircraft, saying that they are part of the reparations Iraq should pay because it started the war in 1980. As is known, Iraq sent its civilian aircraft to Iran, Jordan, and Tunisia during the Gulf War.

Iraq: 'Huge Explosion' Reported at al-Dawrah Refinery

JN1807185496 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1215 GMT 18 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Iraqi opposition sources said a huge explosion occurred at al-Dawrah refinery southwest of the capital, Baghdad, on 12 July. The sources cited an eyewitness as saying fire broke out in parts of the refinery as a result of the explosion, which occurred before midnight last Friday. No information was immediately available on damages or casualties. However, citizens in nearby quarters said they heard the explosion.

Available information says the regime security agencies launched a search and arrest campaign in al-Dawrah region against a large number of citizens.

Iraq: AL-QADISIYAH on Reconstruction of al-Musayyib Power Station

JN1807110196 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 23 Jun 96 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Adnan 'Abd-al-Majid, minister of industry and minerals, has called upon the engineering and technical teams in al-Musayyib Thermal Power Station to do their utmost to insure the re-operation of the first and second power generators at this station which sustained grave damage of up to 90 percent during the criminal 30-state aggression. The minister affirmed during his meeting with employees at the station that the brains and arms which defied all challenges and managed to rebuild what was destroyed by the aggression are capable now more than at any time before to overcome all hardships and continue their creativity and production in order to find the local substitutes they need for the two power generators. The minister referred to the great progress which the teams have already made in reconstructing and repairing the two generators.

The minister explained that recommissioning the two generators into service will add new power, bolster the electricity system, and greatly contribute toward reducing power cuts. He pointed out that the two generators have a total capacity of 640 megawatts.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Israel: Netanyahu Returns, Comments on Talks With Mubarak

TA1807151896 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 18 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu landed in Israel a short time ago upon returning from his visit to Egypt. Netanyahu said his meeting with Egyptian President Mubarak was very good. According to him, Mubarak understood that Israel intends to honor the agreements with the Palestinian Authority and reach real peace. On his way back to Israel aboard an Air Force plane, Netanyahu was asked what message, from his point of view, Mubarak can relay to the Arab countries now.

[Begin Netanyahu recording] He can tell them: It is true there will be disagreements in the future about the final process — that much is true — but there is an existing framework accepted by both sides with regard to the Palestinian issue, and there also is an accepted framework for negotiations with the Syrians, and the current government is prepared to conduct these negotiations. I believe that, for a variety of reasons, some kind of cloud hovered over this point before I came here. I believe this cloud has now been dispersed. [end recording]

Israel: Netanyahu Says Mubarak Not Trying 'To Dictate' to Israel

TA1807183496 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 18 Jul 96

[Report by political correspondent Dan Scemama]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Before Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's visit ended, President Mubarak asked to meet with Israeli reporters only, excluding all Arab journalists, for a warm and cordial parley. This is what he said about Netanyahu:

[Begin Mubarak recording, in English] I personally heard the speech in the Knesset and in the Congress and even in the press conference. I was nearly.... [pauses] I couldn't understand how could we proceed forward, if what he's saying is definitely going to happen, or maybe he has another concept which is not mentioned. And when I met him today, I had a clear picture about what could happen, a clear picture that he is going to go through the peace process; he is ready to negotiate here and there. This gave some kind of relaxation. [end recording] [passage omitted]

I also interviewed the prime minister aboard the plane on his way home from Egypt:

[Begin recording] [Scemama] Mr. Prime Minister, you had a 90- minute private meeting with Mubarak. Although the entire Arab world and Egypt had been in a rage, Mubarak emerged very satisfied from the meeting. What did you give him? What did you do to him?

[Netanyahu] I gave him a very simple thing: our stands as they are on the practical, not the declarative level. I told him: Look, there will eventually be disagreements — that much is true — but there is also an agreed framework for negotiations. There is the interim agreement that has to be concluded. Both sides should do their duty. I am not saying this as a ruse or as a stalling technique; on the contrary, I am saying it as a way to promote the process. I think I convinced him.

[Scemama] You discussed the Palestinian issue at length. Did you also address the Syrian issue? Have you learned anything new about Syrian President al-Asad's stands?

[Netanyahu] I heard quite a few assessments and even received some advice. I think the assessments were interesting and the advice can be beneficial.

[Scemama] With regard to the negotiations with Syria?

[Netanyahu] I would say with regard to how Damascus thinks, how they see us, how we can achieve a better understanding of their approach; however, President Mubarak did not attempt to dictate anything to the State of Israel with regard to its interests or the final outcome of the negotiations. He is too astute to do such a thing, and besides, he knows that right now the problem is how to resume the process with Syria. [end recording]

Israel: Netanyahu, Levi Extend Condolences Over TWA Explosion

TA1907053096 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 19 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu spoke with President Clinton and New York City Mayor Guiliani to express his condolences over the TWA disaster. A Qol Yisra'el reporter says that the President told the prime minister that the cause of the explosion is still unclear. Netanyahu also sent messages of condolence to New York Governor George Pataki and New York City Mayor Rudolph Guiliani. The prime minister expressed sympathy to the families of the victims of the tragedy and the residents of New York.

[A similar report on Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0400 GMT on 19 July adds that "our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that during their conversation, Prime Minister Netanyahu updated President Clinton on his talks in Cairo."]

Foreign Minister David Levi sent a condolence letter to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. In the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

letter, the foreign minister says: as I write these words it is not yet clear what caused this awful explosion. If, as we fear, this tragedy is the result of a terrorist act, we join you in outright condemnation of the perpetrators and their evil deeds. He adds: the barbarism which so indiscriminately takes the lives of so many innocent people must be uprooted from our midst. All peace-loving and decent nations across the globe must redouble their efforts to bring an end to such destructive violence.

Israel: Link Between TWA Explosion, Islamic Groups Investigated

TA1907054496 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Jul 96 p A1

[Report by Shlomo Shamir, Sharon Sade, and Eytan Rabin]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Israel is checking whether there is any connection between the explosion of the TWA airliner in New York and Islamic terrorist organizations. A senior security source said last night that Israeli antiterrorist officials have been helping out the CIA and the FBI with information about Islamic terrorist groups that might be connected to the explosion.

According to the source, at the moment the investigation is mainly being conducted by the CIA and the FBI, but "Israel is helping as much as it can." The source added that Israel and the United States cooperate in the war against Islamic terror and that recently "the Americans managed to lay their hands on the finance sources of these terrorist groups and expose the routes through which money is transferred from Iran to various places around the world, including the Middle East.

"As long as all the plane debris have not been collected and checked, it is too early to determine that it was a terrorist attack," the security source said. Nevertheless, he added, "all the signs indicate that a bomb was planted on the plane." According to him, there have recently been warnings that terrorists might try to attack airplanes, and consequently security was tightened in airports where Israeli airlines operate. [passage omitted]

According to senior Israeli aviation experts, there is close cooperation between Israel and the United States in the area of airline security and safety. The Americans send a weekly report to Israel and other countries which includes warnings, conclusions, and varied information on these issues. [passage omitted]

Israel: Egyptian, Jordanian, PA Envoys Address University Symposium

TA1707161696 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1400 GMT 17 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The ambassadors of Egypt and Jordan, together with Palestinian Authority official Sa'ib 'Urayqat, today called on Israel to resume peace talks as soon as possible with the Arabs on the basis of a land-for-peace principle. They were addressing a symposium at Tel Aviv University. Steve Linde reports.

[Begin recording] [Linde] Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat was warmly received by students of a summer course organized by the law schools of Tel Aviv and Temple Universities, but his message was a harsh one. Israel must talk to the Palestinians directly and not via CNN, and there will be no peace if settlements continue.

['Urayqat] Now, leave us alone. Isolated settlements here and there, in the West Bank and Gaza and in and around Jerusalem, will not do anything to the Israeli security. The impact of settlements on the West Bank and Gaza to Palestinians, to all Palestinians, is maybe more or equivalent to a car bomb exploded here and there. Mr. Netanyahu said something — and I agree with him — that peace and terror are two parallels that will not meet, and him and the Israeli people must understand that peace and settlements are two parallels that cannot meet. One is really the antidote of the other. It cannot meet, and we don't want to go through a historical, philosophical, religious debate of saying if the term Judaea and Samaria is going to continue to be used. I don't think there was ever in Israel [words indistinct] Tel Aviv area and Haifa. They want to exchange; we are willing to talk about it, but let's come to sanity, let's use our wisdom and let's use our courage, and let us try to work in a parallel manner on all issues. We need to engage immediately in our negotiations. We invite the Israeli Government again not to waste any more precious time and to come back to the negotiating table at the level of the higher liaison and steering committee, under the title: reciprocal implementation of the agreement. We really do understand, and we are trying to understand Israeli security requirements, but at the same time, I hope that the Israelis will not start acting like an empire around us, telling people how they should behave, how they should govern themselves, how the Arab world should look. That's none of your business. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic at 1430 GMT on 17 July adds that 'Urayqat said that "Yasir 'Arafat's meeting with Foreign Minister David Levi, which could take place soon, is not a goal in itself but paves the way for a Netanyahu-'Arafat meeting. 'Urayqat added that

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

if Netanyahu wants to continue the peace process, there is only one address, and that is Yasir 'Arafat."]

[Linde] In a fiery address, Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni also urged the Israeli Government not to waste any time in returning to the negotiating table with the Arabs:

[Basyuni] Tomorrow, Mr. Netanyahu will visit Egypt to meet President Mubarak. President Mubarak will tell him frankly and honestly what is possible and what is impossible. We don't want to put Mr. Netanyahu in a corner, but we would like to encourage him to move quickly, because the time factor is crucial. You can perhaps convince the leaders to wait, but you can't convince the people. We are not judging Mr. Netanyahu from his speeches or from the general guidelines of the government, but we will judge the actions that the government shall take. We consider the foundations for peace are land, normalization, and security arrangements between the relevant partners; that if you forfeit the land element, then it will be impossible to achieve peace.

At this point, I would like to emphasize that it is my sincerest hope that the talks on all tracks will resume and the agreements will be reached and fulfilled. I don't come here to please you by perhaps telling you what I think you would like to hear. I want to tell you what I feel are the possibilities and the impossibilities of the situation. Frankly and honestly, the key to achieve this comprehensive peace is the principle of land for peace. No country can realize peace without it. Yes, you can maintain the status quo by force, but it will not bring peace and it will not bring security. It will only bring tension and violence, because the only thing that will bring true security is peace, a just and comprehensive peace, for otherwise it will not be a lasting one.

[Linde] Jordanian Amb. 'Umar al-Rifa'i echoed Basyuni's call and offered Jordan's assistance in getting the peace process back on track:

[Al-Rifa'i] Jordan does have a special relationship with Israel, and we are trying to use our relationship and our offices with the Israeli Government to give it the other side of the story, so to speak, to be a positive influence on restarting the peace process on the proper track, and to give a perspective which, I think, has to be heard here. [passage omitted]

[Qol Yisra'el in Arabic adds that after the symposium, al-Rifa'i said that "yesterday's meeting between Jordanian Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti and Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu comes within the framework of Jordanian efforts aimed at reinvigorating the peace process. He expressed the hope that all parties will proceed with the peace process."]

[Linde] The symposium ended with a dispute between Yosi Olmert, former head of the Government Press Office, and Sa'ib 'Urayqat. Olmert referred to Judaea and Samaria; 'Urayqat called it the West Bank. 'Urayqat said that under the peace agreement, Yasir 'Arafat is president of the Palestinian Authority; Olmert called him chairman. [end recording]

Israel: Egyptian Envoy on Peace Process, Netanyahu Egypt Visit

TA1807063496 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 18 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni says Egypt does not want to back Prime Minister Netanyahu into a corner, but he adds, President Mubarak will urge Netanyahu to resume peace talks with the Arabs as soon as possible. Addressing a symposium at Tel Aviv University, Basyuni said Mubarak would insist that Israel implement outstanding points in its agreements with the Palestinians.

[Begin Basyuni recording] There is five main points which is the redeployment in Hebron; second, further redeployment in area B and C; three, to ease the closure, to put an end to it; four, the safe passage between Gaza and West Bank; and fifth, is the releasing of the Palestinian prisoners in Israel. There is a commitment, and this is international commitment. This is between the Israeli Government and the Palestinian Authority. This is not between persons. It is between governments. So, I would like first of all to implement the five points, and build on it, starting the talks of the final settlement till we reach agreement about the final settlement and to put an end, as I said, about the Israeli-Palestinian track, and also the Israeli-Arab dispute. [sentence as heard]

This what we want. We want also to resume the talks between Israel and the Palestinians, Israel and the Syrians, and Israel and the Lebanese. This is our demand. Another point which is the terms of reference of the talks: There should be terms of reference. We can't go without terms of reference, and in Madrid we went with 242, 338, and the letter of assurances on land for peace. This is what we will tell him [Binyamin Netanyahu] frankly and honestly — what is possible, what is impossible. We will speak with him frankly and honestly, with a friendly way. We don't want again to put him in a corner. We don't want to insult him, but we want to encourage him and we want to tell him the reality. [end recording]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Israel: Measures To Ease Closure To Take Effect 21 Jul

TA1907052496 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 19 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The army has announced a series of measures to ease the closure on the territories. An army statement said 10,000 additional Palestinian workers aged over 30 and married would be permitted entry into Israel. Five hundred workers, aged 25 and married, would be allowed to enter the industrial area at the Erez checkpoint between Israel and Gaza. Three-hundred and fifty additional entry permits will be given to business people from the West Bank and Gaza. Two-hundred and forty additional medical personnel will be permitted to enter Israel. Ten ambulances will be allowed to travel from Judaea and Samaria. Movement of trucks and taxis from the territories will also be eased. Measures are to go into effect on Sunday morning [21 July].

Israel: Weizman To Release 2 Female Palestinian Prisoners

TA1807161996 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 18 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] President 'Ezer Weizman has decided to release two female Palestinian prisoners convicted of murder. The president further decided to commute the sentences of several Jewish prisoners convicted of nationalistically motivated murder. Our correspondent Yitzhaq Feller reports that the president had originally refused to release the two female prisoners. Later he decided to set them free, but deferred his announcement until after the Knesset elections. Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu informed Egyptian President Mubarak of Weizman's decision today.

The two female prisoners will be set free at the beginning of next week, together with three other female Palestinian prisoners convicted of murdering Jews. The three will be released on orders signed by the Central Command chief.

Israel: Peres Rejects Call To Bring Forward Labor 'Leadership Race'

TA1907065496 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 19 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Labor Party chairman Shim'on Peres has announced he does not intend to postpone the leadership race in his party and that he is committed to holding the vote for a new chairman next year as scheduled. Peres said if there is a confrontation now, the Labor Party could collapse. The former prime minister was responding to a call for his resignation in the Labor Party Bureau meeting after others in the party urged him to remain as chairman for the next four years.

Israel: General Staff Said To Sense 'Hostility' From Netanyahu

TA1807152796 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 18 Jul 96 pp 1, 2

[Report by Hagay Huberman]

[FBIS Translated Text] Lieutenant General Amnon Shahaq, chief of staff, learned of the decision to ease the closure in the same way the nation did: through the media. The same goes for the upper echelons of the defense establishment — the chiefs of the Central and Southern Commands, army Intelligence, and the Shin Bet; the coordinator of government activities in the territories; and so forth — who are supposed to be full partners in the discussions that precede such a decision. Our correspondent has learned this fact from a high-ranking defense establishment source.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu made the decision to ease the closure on Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza following consultations with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Mordekhay and Foreign Minister David Levi on 15 July. Although the chief of staff and his generals were not invited to the meeting, reporters were informed on their beepers that they could receive information on the issue from the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman. The latter, however, had no information on the issue either on 16 or 17 July. The spokesman for the coordinator of government activities in the territories, who is subordinate to the defense minister, issued a similar reaction: We have not received any details as yet.

Nonetheless, the discussion on the closure was based on the recommendations of the defense establishment, which had advised the government for a long time to ease the closure on Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza in order to subdue the ferment and avert terrorist attacks. The recommendations included details on ways to ease the closure, the number and age of workers that can be allowed into Israel, the number and kind of trucks, and so forth.

Defense establishment sources charge that Netanyahu has accepted the axiom that this is an "Oslo General Staff," which colors his attitude toward the generals. The General Staff took note of Netanyahu's declaration in Washington that IDF officers will no longer participate in the political negotiations, which they interpret as underlying hostility on Netanyahu's part. Senior officers claim that when Dore Gold was about to meet with 'Arafat, he did not even try to include IDF generals

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

in the discussions held in preparation for the meeting, despite the fact that, as most of the territory is still under Civil Administration jurisdiction, the IDF is the only body maintaining ongoing contacts with the Palestinians. The same applies to the joint Israeli-Palestinian Authority committees, which have as yet to receive any political instructions concerning their future course of action in the many issues awaiting their attention, such as the safe corridor, the Dahaniya airport, the permanent status arrangement, and others. Major General Matan Vilna'i, deputy chief of staff, who is in charge of the security committee headed by Brigadier General Herzl Getz, is still uncertain of the policy he is to pursue.

Defense establishment sources maintain that lack of communication also exists between Netanyahu and the senior defense officials who are subordinate to the Prime Minister's Office: the chiefs of the Shin Bet and the Mosad. Usually, these two officials can use the prime minister's "open door" at any time, day or night. The work procedures of these institutions require close daily coordination. Nowadays, defense establishment sources reveal, the cooperation is not as close as it was in the past, which reduces the efficiency of their work. Officials have so far rationalized this by saying that Netanyahu was busy forming a government and addressing various issues which left him no time for such cooperation: the formation of the government, the Sharon crisis, the U.S. visit, and so forth. Knowledgeable sources say that now this attitude seems to have become a work routine.

Netanyahu's spokesman Shay Bazaq said in reaction that IDF generals and the upper echelons of the army are invited to debates as needed.

It should be noted that relations between Netanyahu and the defense establishment are totally different from the defense minister's relations with his ministry's senior officials and with the General Staff. The defense source said that after receiving almost no operative directives during Peres' six-month term, the State of Israel has a defense minister at last. In the absence of directives from the political levels — namely, the defense minister — senior officers were often confused and powerless. The situation changed as soon as Mordekhay became defense minister: The officers can consult him, and they count on him to make decisions when necessary. The generals are satisfied: They now have the backing they lacked during Peres' six months in office.

Israel: Knesset Members Tour Hebron, Meet With Mayor, Settlers

TA1807161396 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1400 GMT 18 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Hebron Mayor Mustafa al-Natshah says he believes Israel will decide to redeploy in the city and will announce a decision in two weeks. The Knesset Interior Committee toured the city today to learn at first hand about problems of redeployment. Mark Weiss reports:

[Begin Weiss recording] Members of the Knesset Interior Committee met with senior IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officers, Hebron Mayor Mustafa al-Natshah, and representatives of the Jewish residents of the city. For Knesset Member Mikha'el Nudelman, from the Yisra'el Ba'aliya party, it was his first time ever in the city. But the Knesset members, it seemed, came with their minds already made up on what is the best solution for Hebron, and none of the meetings changed anyone's mind. Talib al-Sani', from the Arab Democratic Party, didn't even bother staying for the meeting with the settlers. Salih Tarif from Labor said the army is ready to redeploy. [passage omitted]

The mayor said he believes the redeployment will take place, and he predicted an Israeli decision in two weeks. Speaking to members of the committee, he complained about a critical water shortage in the city which has led to severe rationing. He also asked for 800,000 shekels to widen the road into the city, and the committee said the request will be considered.

The settlers' representatives stressed that there can only be one sovereign body in charge of security in the city, not two. This principle had been promised to them by the former head of Central Command, Major General Ilan Biran. Some of the Knesset members, sympathetic to the settlers, urged them to come up with an alternative to redeployment in the next few days if they want help from the Knesset.

Again, the settlers warned that handing over the hilly neighborhood of Abu-Sunaynah to the Palestinians will leave the settlers as sitting ducks to Palestinian snipers. [end recording]

Israel: Immigration Committee Seeks Action on Issue of Iranian Jews

TA1707155696 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 17 Jul 96 p 13

[Report by Gabi Brunn and Yehudit Yehezqeli]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Yesterday, Knesset Member No'omi Blumenthal, head of the Knesset Immigration

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

and Absorption Committee, called for firm action to get the 25,000 Jews still living in Iran out of the country, bring them to Israel, and create preferred absorption conditions for them.

Blumenthal initiated a discussion on the fate of Iranian Jews in the wake of numerous appeals on the subject which reached her lately.

YEDI'OT AHARONOT published an exclusive report last week about an Iranian Jew who was hanged by the Iranian authorities two weeks ago. The body of 'Azizollah Lami (61) remained hanging in his Tehran shop for 10 days before the Jewish community was allowed to bury him. [passage omitted]

In the discussion held at the Immigration and Absorption Committee yesterday, it was reported that 'Azizollah was probably executed for "spying on behalf of the Zionist enemy." During the discussion, details were also given about the way the Iranian authorities supervise the movements of the Jewish minority in their country: If a Jew is caught leaving Iran via any route other than an international airport, he is placed on a "blacklist" of people barred from leaving Iran. If the Iranian security authorities suspect that this Jew held any contacts with Israeli citizens, he is immediately detained and interrogated.

The Immigration and Absorption Committee unanimously decided to appeal to the prime minister to view immigrants from Iran as immigrants in need and extend to them the procedures applicable to the absorption of Jews immigrating from Yemen or Syria.

Israel: PA Police Accused of 'Illegal Activities,' Holding Israelis

TA1907065796 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 19 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Israel has lodged a formal complaint with the Palestinian Authority over the arrest of Israeli Arabs by Palestinian policemen inside the autonomous areas. A Qol Yisra'el reporter says that the complaint also charged that the Palestinian policemen are involved in illegal activities, including the stealing of Israeli cars. Palestinian security officials promised Brigadier General Herzl Getz, who heads the Israeli security committee that deals with the Palestinians, to clarify instructions to Palestinian policemen.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Jordan: Prime Minister Receives PLO's 'Abbas; Change in Israeli Tone Noted

JN1807125396 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 18 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti received PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas this morning. The prime minister reiterated Jordan's firm stands in support of the Arab position vis-a-vis the peace process and its efforts to continue the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations on all tracks with the aim of reaching a comprehensive and just peace in the region. The prime minister stressed the importance of coordinating Arab efforts, especially at this particular stage.

On his part, Mahmud 'Abbas said his discussions with the prime minister focused on the meetings recently held in Cairo and Tel Aviv and the Israeli prime minister's anticipated talks in Cairo and Amman. He stressed that the Arab positions, especially those of the Arab countries directly involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict, are very clear and specific. He added that the Arab countries always reach understanding on the smallest detail in this regard. He said a new language began to be spoken in Israel concerning the peace process in general, noting the importance of al-Kabariti's visit to Israel in pushing the Israeli Government toward adhering to peace, because peace is important not only for the Arabs, but also—if not more so—for Israel.

'Abbas recalled al-Kabariti's statements at a news conference held during his recent visit to Israel in which he said the Israeli prime minister is committed to the peace process in general and the Oslo agreement in particular. This, 'Abbas said, indicates some progress in the previously declared Israeli policy. He stressed the importance of coordinating the Arab positions on the peace process. He hoped the Israeli language spoken in Washington will change since that language was about to close all doors before the peace process and obstruct all moves. He expected many changes, including changes in the Israeli language and style in the area of peace.

Jordan: Royal Decree Summons Parliament for Extraordinary Session

JN1707150096 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 17 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A royal decree was issued summoning parliament for an extraordinary session as of Saturday, 20 July. The parliament will discuss a number of bills, the most prominent among which are draft laws pertaining to the Jordan Radio and Television Corporation, the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY, the Journalists Union, higher education, unification of fees and duties levied on imported and reexported goods, the Jordanian Farmers Union, and the Artists Union, in addition to other amended and temporary bills.

Jordan: Bread Subsidies Distribution Mechanism Announced

JN1807160396 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 18 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Minister of Supply Munir Subar has specified the mechanism of providing citizens with bread subsidies as follows:

1. Employees: These include civil servants and retired civil servants, whether they were military or civilian. The amount of the subsidy, which amounts to 1.280 dinars for every family member registered in the family book of the beneficiary or employee, will be added to their monthly salaries. This also applies to people who work at major companies, banks, and financial institutions.

2. The private sector.

a. Families who are entitled to monthly financial aid from the National Aid Fund will be reimbursed for the increase in the price of bread by 1.800 dinars per month for each family member. Approximately 40,000 families receive assistance from the National Aid Fund.

b. Ordinary citizens who have ration cards can refer to certain banks and their various branches — the names of which will be announced later — in order to receive their allocations, which will be paid over three or four installments per year. Citizens in this category have to show their family book and ration card and fill out the specified form.

c. Citizens who have ration cards and are entitled to a bread subsidy should refer to the supply departments in their governorates in order to obtain a special ration card for bread.

d. Citizens of the Gaza Strip and camps who have temporary passports can benefit from the subsidy by referring to the supply departments to obtain a card for bread subsidies.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Syria: Syrian-Lebanese Coordination Termed 'Best Model' for Arab States

JN1807153596 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Jul 96

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: The Syrian-Lebanese meetings, at either the government or summit levels, present the best model for bilateral and multilateral relations between Arab countries. Relations between the two fraternal countries, Lebanon and Syria — which are based on brotherhood, coordination, and cooperation, and which yielded good results for their common interests — have fortified and strengthened the two countries' stand on the peace process. This strong Syrian-Lebanese coordination has made it impossible for any party or maneuver to affect the Syrian and Lebanese stand or the inseparability their tracks in the peace process. This coordination, which is tantamount to a united stand, also managed to abort the objectives of the barbaric Israeli aggression called "the Grapes of Wrath" and yielded two very important results. The first result is the recognition of Lebanon's right to resist the Israeli occupation of their territories. The second result is the formation of a mechanism to determine which party violates the April understanding.

As part of this close fraternal relationship between Syria and Lebanon, President Hafiz al-Asad and President Ilyas al-Hirawi met yesterday. Their discussions dealt with the most important developments and events in the region, changes in Israeli policy toward the peace process, and Arab action aimed at developing the results of the recent Cairo summit toward solidifying the Arab stand in order to confront moves that are hostile to the Arabs and consolidate joint Arab action.

The serious developments in the peace process came when the very extremist and hardline Israeli right-wing assumed power in Israel. The Israeli right-wing rejects UN Security Council resolutions that are in line with the Arab right, the Arabs' choice of peace, the land-for-peace principle, and the U.S. initiative vis-a-vis the set of bases by which the peace process operates starting from the Madrid conference in 1991.

The extremist Israeli right-wing assumed power in Israel. Along with this came the rejection of a just peace. The Israeli right-wing refuses to withdraw from the occupied Golan and Jerusalem. It persists on Judaizing Jerusalem and usurping occupied Arab territories by building settlements. This Israeli rejection of a just peace is part of a rude provocation of Arab sentiments, international law, and world public opinion, which aspires for a firm comprehensive peace in the Middle East. This prompted the tripartite summit in Damascus, which was followed by the expanded Cairo summit about a month ago. Then came the foreign ministers' meeting of the Damascus Declaration states a few days ago and yesterday's meeting between President Hafiz al-Asad and President Ilyas al-Hirawi.

The new Arab stand is founded on the basis that peace is the Arab's strategic option and that this peace will not happen unless Israel withdraws from the occupied Arab territories to the 4 June 1967 lines and unless the Palestinian people exercise their right to establish an independent state with Arab Jerusalem as its capital. This Arab stand is pushed forward by an Arab rationality, which specifies that a just peace is the objective and that the way to achieve it is through the Madrid terms of reference, the reinforcement and cohesion of Arab solidarity and its effective move toward generating more international support for the Arab right and the Arab stand on the peace process. This support was clear at the European Union summit in Florence and at the summit held by the G-7 states and Russia, which announced that it will reactivate its role in the peace process. Any deviation from the bases of the peace process poses serious dangers. This wide international awareness of the dangers is behind the adherence to the terms of reference of the peace process and the land-for-peace principle and is behind the increasing rejection of proposals by the extremist Israeli right- wing's proposals to change the bases of the peace process.

Syria: President al-Asad Attends Brother's Funeral

JN1807185696 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1620 GMT 18 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Al-Qardahah, 18 Jul (SANA)—A solemn funeral service was held in the city of al-Qardahah this afternoon for Isma'il 'Ali al-Asad, President Hafiz al-Asad's brother, who died this morning.

President Hafiz al-Asad, his brothers, the children of the deceased, and members of al-Asad family led the funeral procession. [passage omitted]

Syria: Netanyahu Policy Seen To Kill Peace Process

JN1907100096 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 19 Jul 96

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In its editorial today, AL-BA'TH comments on Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's rejection of the terms of reference of the peace process. In light of that, the paper says, many

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

mass media have begun to show skepticism about the future of the peace process.

AL-BA'TH says this skepticism has become unavoidable in light of the fait accompli the Netanyahu government is trying to impose, especially since the course of events unmistakably indicates that the Israeli Government's public stands have closed the door on the peace process.

AL-BA'TH says that the Netanyahu government's clear and public rejection of the terms of reference, bases, and principles of the peace process almost kills the peace process, but it is theoretically trying to maintain the peace process to achieve its expansionist objectives. The paper adds: The Tel Aviv government says it wants peace in return for peace but that it wants security first. Israel should realize that its demands are not only rejected by the Arabs, but also pose very serious threats to the region and the world.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: The Arabs have clearly and specifically stressed a just, comprehensive peace based on the resolutions of international legitimacy, and the land-for-peace principle is their strategic option. Peace must be based on justice and equality. The Arabs have offered a great deal to make that possible, and if the desired peace is not achieved and if Israel is not committed to the requirements of a just, comprehensive peace, Israel should be held responsible for that.

Under the headline "The Peace Terms of Reference," AL-THAWRAH says in one of its commentaries: After turning its back on the Madrid terms of reference concerning full withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon and returning to the Palestinian people their legitimate rights in response to the resolutions of international legitimacy and the land-for-peace principle, the ruling Israeli team closed the door on peace. Persisting in rejection, it insisted on maintaining the occupation and continuing to build settlements and settlement projects, something that confirms Israel's expansionist, hostile policy and territorial ambitions, without giving the least regard to the principles of peace.

AL-THAWRAH says: This Israeli departure from the peace terms of reference requires the international community and the cosponsors of the peace process, especially the United States, to work swiftly to stop this reckless Israeli behavior. Israel should be brought back to its senses and forced to abide by the bases of the peace process according to which the Madrid conference was held with everyone's approval.

The paper says that the Arabs have always stressed their commitment to a just, comprehensive peace based on the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy and the U.S. initiative as their strategic option. They clearly declared that the road to peace must pass through full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan to the 4 June 1967 lines, the establishment of equitable and balanced security arrangements on the two sides of the lines, implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 425 demanding Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon, returning to the Palestinian people their legitimate rights, and the establishment of their independent state with Jerusalem as its capital.

Concluding its comment, AL-THAWRAH says that through the UN resolutions, the world stressed the need to achieve a just, comprehensive peace in accordance with those resolutions. This has been constantly stressed by the Arabs and was recently called for again by the Cairo Arab summit, the Florence European summit, the Lyon summit of the world's most industrialized nations, the African summit, and the United States and Russia as the cosponsors of the peace process.

In another comment, AL-THAWRAH says: Israel's intransigent policy of rejecting peace requires the international community and the U.S. cosponsor in particular to deal with it with firmer and more convincing means to make it abide by the international will and establish a just, comprehensive peace based on balance, equitability, and equality, and the restoration of the occupied territories and the usurped Arab rights to their owners. Similarly, this policy requires the Arab side, which has shown every commitment to peace as a strategic option, to continue to stick to the pan-Arab constants and the principles. This was stressed by the 17 July Damascus summit between President Hafiz al-Asad and his brother Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi as part of the work to develop the results of the recent Cairo Arab summit, adopt a sound position against the moves antagonizing the Arabs and their crucial issues, and bolster joint action to achieve a just, comprehensive peace in the region.

[In its review of the Syrian press at 0715 GMT on 19 July, Damascus SANA in Arabic adds the following: "AL-BA'TH stresses that anyone who follows Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's statements during his visit to the United States will immediately remember the Nazi leaders' statements and actions. Undoubtedly, there is a great similarity between the two in many respects, especially regarding humanity and the policy of arrogance and use of force to achieve expansionist objectives."]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Afghanistan

Afghanistan: Rabbani, Iranian Envoy Hold Talks

LD1807212896 Tehran IRNA in English 2028 GMT 18 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, July 18, IRNA — Iran's Ambassador to Kabul, Gholam Reza Haddadi, met with the Afghan President, Borhanoddin Rabbani, on Thursday [18 July] exchanging views on the latest developments in that country, the mutual relations and ways for the establishment of lasting peace and security in Afghanistan.

The Afghan president thanked Iran for its assistances to the people of Afghanistan in the course of their jihad and in post-jihad periods. Rabbani also expressed his gratitude for the efforts of Iranian officials for helping restore peace in Afghanistan. The Afghan president added that the Afghan Islamic government has always stressed that it gave top priority to its relations with its Islamic neighbor, the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Rabbani elaborated on the current developments taking shape in his country, expressing his country's willingness to follow-up the peace process and to bring all the factions to participate in the government so that a powerful government would be created to rule the nation.

Iran's ambassador said Iran eagerly pursued the current positive trend of developments in Afghanistan and called for a swift prevalence of peace throughout that nation.

He announced Iran's readiness for expansion of relations between the two countries in different areas, stressing continuation of talks among Afghanis for settlement of the crisis in that country.

Gholam Reza Haddadi also met with the Afghani Minister of Public Health, Mohammad Yaqub Barekzai announcing that Iran was prepared to help the ministry in different fields of health care and treatment.

The Islamic Republic of Iran in addition to donating 2000 copies medical research books and a laboratory to the medical faculty of Kabul and providing medicine, it was assisting the medical school in training physicians in the different fields of specialization.

Afghanistan: Memorandum Rejects Tajik Government Allegations

LD1807214096 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 18 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Islamic State of Afghanistan's [ISA's] Ministry of Foreign Affairs memorandum to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan in reply to memorandum No 2383.71 dated 16 July 96 of the above Ministry:

The contents of your memorandum caused grave concern here to the State, government, and people of Afghanistan.

The ISA, in its previous notes, announcements, and contacts, has always stated that it wants good, friendly relations with the fraternal Republic of Tajikistan in consideration of religious, linguistic, blood, historical, and cultural links, and the existence of good neighborly relations between the two countries. The ISA regards the current issues in Tajikistan as internal issues, and considers it to be its duty not to withhold any earnest cooperation for the peaceful solution to the country's problems on the basis of Islamic fraternity and the principle of goodwill.

In pursuing its previous stance, once again we emphasize that the ISA has never interfered in the internal affairs of any country — in particular neighboring and fraternal countries — including the Republic of Tajikistan. The presence of a number of Tajik refugees on the ISA's territory, who are here temporarily, is on the basis of normal cooperation with them and is solely on a humanitarian level. We emphatically desire that the conflict in Tajikistan be resolved through talks and by peaceful means, and that the Tajik refugees return to their beautiful country with dignity.

In pursuing its peace-seeking policy and in consideration of the actual facts, the ISA regards all tension and military movement along the common border between the two fraternal countries as contrary to the national interests of Afghanistan and the region. The ISA considers the allegations of assistance from Defense Ministry personnel to Tajik opposition groups, as well as other charges, to be unfounded, and totally rejects them.

We are of the opinion that the reports received by the Tajik authorities have been initiated by those who want to disrupt relations between the ISA and the fraternal Republic of Tajikistan.

In expressing good wishes, the ISA desires a successful end to the current round of talks between the Tajik government and opposition, held in Ashgabat, [words indistinct]. The ISA hopes that by a realistic approach, broad and effective steps will be taken towards resolving the fundamental issues in Tajikistan.

In order not to provide an opportunity for the enemies of friendship between the Afghan and Tajik peoples to maintain and keep the crisis going along the border, the Afghan side hereby expresses its readiness to invite a delegation from the Tajik side to visit the area and to assess the situation closely.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

In consideration of the present difficult situation, the ISA expects the fraternal Republic of Tajikistan to review its decision regarding the closure of commercial ports along the border of the two countries, in order to protect the high interests of the two countries' peoples.

The ISA, once again states that this country considers itself committed to all undertakings which have been concluded with the Republic of Tajikistan since the victory of the Islamic revolution. Reciprocally, the ISA expects the fraternal Republic of Tajikistan to do the same.

In the light of mutual goodwill, realism, and the observance of international [words indistinct], as well as joint efforts to defeat inclinations aiming to maintain tension in the region, and on the basis of the two countries' sound determination and desire for the consolidation of relations, we hope that no further cause remains for sending and receiving such notes. Without doubt reason will prevail.

Afghanistan: Rabbani, Hekmatyar, Sayyaf Attend High State Council

LD1707184896 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 17 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A session of the High State Council was held today and was chaired by esteemed professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan [ISA] and president of the High State Council. The High State Council's secretariat reported to BAKHTAR that at today's session, attended also by esteemed Brother Hekmatyar, ISA's prime minister; esteemed Professor 'Abdorrab Rasul Sayyaf, leader of the Ettehad-e Eslami [Islamic Union] and other members of this Council, the country's political situation and recent developments were discussed.

The High State Council assessed the beneficial continuation and strengthening of talks between Afghan factions, so as to find a solution to the problems and restore security. The session called for the strengthening of contacts and understanding between all relevant groups. The High State Council at today's session set up a commission, headed by Professor 'Abdorrab Rasul Sayyaf, to study regulations and legislative documents relevant to the High State Council and its duties and composition. The commission has been asked to submit its views and consultations regarding the careful arrangement [of these documents]. The High State Council considered a number of decisions made by the prime minister's office and each one of them was debated with views exchanged.

At today's session, a number of other subjects in the agenda were also discussed and decisions were made on each one of them.

Afghanistan: 5 Afghan Groups Form New Alliance

BK1807124796 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 18 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Afghanistan, five Afghan groups have formed a new alliance aimed at working together for transfer of power to a broad-based interim government there. The front includes National Islamic Movement of General Dostam, Jabbah-e Nejat-e Melli of former President Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, National Islamic Front of Seyyed Ahmad Gilani, Hezb-e Wahdat faction of Karim Khalili, and Harakat-e Eslami of Sadeq Modabbir. The governor of Shura [consultative council] in eastern Nangarhar Province headed by 'Abdol Qadeer is also associated with the new alliance. A spokesman of the group has said the new alliance will be called the Islamic National Front for Peace in Afghanistan.

[Hong Kong AFP in English at 0813 GMT on 18 July also reports on the new alliance. According to AFP, Seyyed Hamed Gilani, deputy leader of the National Islamic Front of Afghanistan (NIFA), said that it is a purely Afghan initiative aimed at ending the war and bringing about a broad-based setup to which power can be transferred.

AFP reports: "The new front was formed earlier this week after four days of talks among leaders of the component parties in the city of Mazar-e Sharif, Dostam's stronghold in northern Afghanistan.

"Gilani said the front would welcome all others, including the Taleban Islamic militia, which controls about half the country, and other parties represented in President Borhanoddin Rabbani's government.

"This initiative is not against any body,' Gilani said. 'Our sole aim is to bring peace to Afghanistan in accordance with the aspirations of the Afghan people."

"He added that the alliance members would jointly resist any attempt to 'sabotage' the peace efforts of the alliance.

"Gilani said the front would soon send delegations to various parts of Afghanistan for talks with other groups. It would also seek support from independent Afghan personalities inside and outside the country. Gilani said the alliance looked forward to diplomatic support from the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

"The formation of INFPA comes ahead of the expected arrival in the region this month of the newly-appointed

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

head of the UN Special Mission to Afghanistan, Norbert Heinrich Holl, a senior German diplomat."]

Afghanistan: Hezb-e Eslami Criticizes Parties for Not Joining Alliance

LD1807170196 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 18 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] of Afghanistan has criticized the refusal of some jehadi formations to join the Mahipar Peace Treaty.

According to reports received by Radio Message of Freedom, a responsible Hezb-e Eslami source said yesterday that those jehadi formations who had been insisting on the peaceful resolution of the country's problems and showing their readiness to join the Hezb-Jam'iyat-e Eslami [Islamic Society] alliance, are refusing to join the peace process now that the two groups have earnestly formed an alliance. They have not yet made any final decision in this respect. On the contrary, they are trying to create a new coalition that will soon be seen by the nation.

The source added: The world's arrogant and the west are scared of the Mojahedin alliance. They have been trying to create dissension among the ranks of the Mojahedin.

Afghanistan: President Rabbani Meets Amnesty International Official

LD1607222896 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Today esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan [ISA] received [name indistinct] head of the Amnesty International. Quoting the presidential office, the BAKHTAR Information Agency reported that the president spoke about the ISA's Islamic and honest policies and noted the people's high position in the Islamic system.

The esteemed president said: The sacred religion of Islam (?attaches great value to humanity) and its fundamental rights, down to the level of recognizing humanity as the best act of creation. Therefore, the position and prestige of people [words indistinct]. On the basis of this policy and humanitarian approach we have in hand broad programs for providing a better system of training and education, better medical services, and [safeguarding] the rights and freedom of the people, all men and all women. With the blessing of God, these policies will be put in to practice (?at the appropriate time).

During this meeting [name indistinct] spoke about the nature of his mission in Afghanistan. [words indistinct].

Bangladesh

Bangladesh: President's Address to Parliament Reported

BK1707141396 Dhaka THE DAILY STAR in English 15 Jul 96 p 1, 2

[BSS Report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday hoped that the Seventh Jatiya Sangsad [Parliament] elected through a free, fair and historic election, would be able to consolidate democracy through united efforts of both the Treasury and Opposition benches.

In his inaugural speech in the opening session of the Seventh Jatiya Sangsad, the President said the government and the Opposition are inseparable and complementary in a democratic set-up and both the sides should work, hand in hand, to materialise the hopes and aspirations of the people.

He said Jatiya Sangsad is the focal point for formulating policies of the state and enactment of laws. "I do hope that the Jatiya Sangsad will be the centre for discussing all national issues and seeking their solutions", he added.

President Biswas said the June 12 parliamentary election was a 'historic event' and it would remain ever-lasting in the memory of the nation. He also said that this election had attracted the attention of the whole world because observers from around the world had come to monitor it. The President also pointed out that the elections of June 12 would remain as an example for all democratic countries.

Dwelling further on the election, President Biswas said 73 percent voters had turned out for voting and this would remain as a record in democracy.

In his 10-page speech, President Biswas congratulated Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government and hoped that the new government would be able to build up Bangladesh free from corruption, terrorism and poverty by using its political sagacity, talent and glorious heritage.

President Biswas paid his highest tribute to the martyrs of the 1952 Language Movement and the country's War of Liberation.

"On this day today, I recall with deep respect the undisputed leader late President Sheikh Mujibur Rahman", the President said in his speech. He also paid tribute to late leaders Hussain Shaheed Suhrawardy, Sher-e-Bangla A.K. Fazlul Huq and Maulana Abdul Hamid

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Khan Bhashani. "With this, I also recall with deep respect valiant freedom fighter Shaheed [martyred] President Ziaur Rahman", added the President.

Dwelling on the Jatiya Sangsad, the President called upon all shades of opinion to utilise their all sincerity to make this Sangsad meaningful. He also called upon all to take decisions on all matters after open-minded discussions.

President Biswas said for establishment of rule of law in society, there should be a transparent and answerable government. He stressed the need for building up a corruption-free, efficient and nonpartisan administration. He pointed out that it is the duty of the government to ensure that the officials of the republic can devote themselves to work for the people and called for enacting necessary laws and regulations with this aim in view. In this context, the President also pointed out that the present government has already declared a wage commission for the officials of the Republic.

President Biswas said Jatiya Sangsad was the focal point of law making and national policy making and hoped the present Sangsad would uphold that spirit. He said the time had come to make the Sangsad sovereign and meaningful in the real term.

The President laid emphasis on establishing accountability and transparency of the government to ensure the rule of law.

Turning to the agriculture sector, he said about 75 percent of the population was directly or indirectly dependent on agriculture which usually had contribution of 35 percent to the GDP [Gross Domestic Product]. He said 31 percent of income from exports also came from export of agricultural produce.

The importance of agri-sector was enormous if we want to ensure security of food, improve quality of life of the majority, eliminate poverty and create employment and the present government was committed to bringing about dynamism in this sectors by extending all facilities like use of fertiliser, expansion of irrigation and modern technology.

President Biswas stressed the imperative of cordial workers-employers relations, saying this would help enhance productivity and quality of goods to make our products competitive in the world market. He said to attain the objective, we require to formulate a labour policy through tripartite consensus and hoped that the present government would give attention in this regard.

The President referred to the constitution saying that according to it the judiciary and the judges are independent and the country will be administered as per law. He said the judiciary was not separated from the executive branches as yet and hoped that the present parliament would pass the separation of the judiciary law.

He said terrorism and anarchy in the educational institutions were hampering the education system in the country. He said the development of the country to a great extent demand expansion of education and removal of illiteracy and said we have built up a movement with the association of all, to free the nation from the curse of illiteracy and turn the huge poverty-stricken and neglected population into human resources.

President Biswas said as half of the country's population is composed of women, the Sangsad would be able to build up consensus on ending repression on women and associate them with the mainstream of national uplift. He said steps should be taken to enhance the dignity, ensure right and improve the lot of women and children.

President Biswas said a well-structured local government is required to be established to strengthen the very foundation of democracy in the country, but till now the local government institutions were kept totally dependent on the national government. President Biswas suggested strengthening the local government institutions by decentralisation of power. For this, the President hoped, the present government would take necessary steps for formation of local government at the zila [district] and upazila [subdistrict] level through direct franchise.

President Biswas strongly pleaded for giving autonomy to public sector media — Bangladesh Television, Radio and news agency saying these mediums should not be allowed to be reduced as publicity organs of the government. He said Radio, Television and news agency are the property of the people. These could not be private property of anybody. President Biswas said free flow of information and freedom of the press are the two major traits of democratic polity. He then suggested that Radio, TV and news agency should project our great Liberation War, glorious past movements, national endeavour for uplift, hopes and aspirations of the people, arts and literature and national culture side by side dissemination of objective news. President Biswas hoped that the present government would soon fulfill its commitment by giving autonomy to the public sector media, including Radio and Television.

President Biswas said "health for all" could not be ensured as yet. The measures taken immediately after the independence to set up health complex at union and modern hospital at thana [police station] level could not be completed. He said distressed and poor people are deprived of the benefit of health care and hoped the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

present government would take steps to reach modern health care facilities at cheaper costs to all.

The President urged for ensuring basic rights of the people irrespective of religion caste, creed and group.

President Biswas called for introduction of Bangla in all spheres of national life side by side giving due importance to international language English. He said this could not be done even after 25 years of independence.

In this context he hoped that the government would adopt time-honoured policy for promotion of national culture, sports and arts and literature.

President Biswas stressed on rapid industrialisation saying this could not be accomplished as yet. He said side by side pursuing free economy, we have to remove disparity between our import and export bills. He said the core policy of the present government would be expansion of national industries, creation of employment, increase of production and exports.

He hoped the government would extend all possible support and incentives to free market economy to encourage private entrepreneurship.

Turning to foreign policy, President Biswas said preservation of independence, sovereignty and geographical integrity and acceleration of national economic pursuits would be the centre point of our foreign policy. Bangladesh would continue to work closely with the international community to build a happy and peaceful world order free from war, conflicts, hunger, poverty and armament race.

Referring to the active role played by Bangladesh in the world fora, including the United Nations, Commonwealth, NAM [Nonaligned Movement], OIC [Organization of the Islamic Conference] and SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation], he said Bangladesh always stands by the side of the struggling people around the world for realisation of their independence and rights including Bosnia-Herzegovina and Palestine .

The President, in this connection, spoke of economic diplomacy and said our missions have been revamped to attain the objective under the purview of South-South cooperation.

President Biswas said economic and social justice are the inalienable rights of the people and added the Planning Commission has been reoriented in this regard to attain a higher rate of growth.

The President said success of development to a great extent depends on timely and effective steps for implementation. He said weakness in implementation of the development programme is the major stumbling block on national efforts for uplift. The donors are pressing us for removal of impediments on way to speedy implementation of development projects.

President Biswas said a sense of relief came in society and political stability returned with the appointment of neutral caretaker government. Effective measures taken by the Caretaker government helped improve law and order which also contributed to restoring economic discipline.

He said eradication of terrorism and establishment of stringent economic discipline are the commitment of the present government. Otherwise, he observed, commitment to bring smile on the face of the people would be a far cry.

Pointing out the changing international economic, political and social scenario, President Biswas said as a result foreign economic aid is reducing. He said the government should try to improve our efficiency to increase the capability of project implementation to redress the situation.

President Biswas said the current year is the year of silver jubilee of independence. He said the posterity would never forgive the present generation unless we could attain our cherished development through hard work, discipline and sincere pursuit.

Bangladesh: Foreign Minister on Resolving Ganges Water Sharing Problem

BK1807142896 Dhaka DAINIK ITTEFAQ in Bengali 12 Jul 96 p 1, 10

[BSS Report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad said in Dhaka yesterday that the Awami League government was keen to resolve the water-sharing issue with India before the next dry season. Addressing the first press conference after his appointment as foreign minister, he said Bangladesh wanted the resolution of the Ganges water sharing issue without any precondition. In reply to a question, he said our stand and policy on the water problem are very clear. We are firm in our determination to resolve this problem with the cooperation of all political parties.

Projecting the overall standpoint of the foreign policy of the new government, Foreign Minister Samad Azad said we will continue efforts to further deepen and expand the existing relations with all countries. On bilateral relations with neighbors, he said Bangladesh wants to resolve all outstanding problems through negotiations. This should be done in a spirit of mutual understanding and safeguarding national interests.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

On ties with Pakistan, the foreign minister said the present government will continue efforts to further expand the existing cordial relations. At the same time, it will strive to solve certain unresolved issues in an atmosphere of friendship and goodwill. In reply to a question, the foreign minister said that the present government will hold talks with the Pakistan Government on issues relating to the stranded Pakistanis and the sharing of assets.

The foreign minister said Bangladesh will pursue a policy of friendship and cooperation with Burma for the mutual well-being of the two countries. At the same time, it will intensify efforts to ensure speedy repatriation of all Burmese refugees to that country.

Samad Azad said the main objective of the foreign policy announced by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is to further boost the image of Bangladesh abroad. Emphasizing the need to pursue economic diplomacy, the foreign minister said that economic diplomacy has attained a significant role, particularly in developing countries.

On the topic of SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation], Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad said that the present government will give special importance to the plans and programs of the SAARC. The foreign minister reiterated the deep commitment of Bangladesh to the United Nations, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, Commonwealth, and the Non-aligned Movement. He said Bangladesh, as a member, will continue to play an active, constructive, and dynamic role in all these organizations.

When his attention was drawn to the demand raised by Khaleda Zia, chairperson of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party [BNP], to obtain 38,000 cusecs of Ganges water, the foreign minister said that the water problem was related to the existence of the nation. Hence, it would be most helpful if this were not made into a political issue. He mentioned that Bangladesh had obtained 44,000 cusecs of water during the rule of the erstwhile Awami League government of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

In reply to a question, Abdus Samad Azad said that the BNP should understand the meaning of consensus by recalling the issue of the passage of the 12th amendment to the Constitution [when all political parties reached a consensus on changing from a presidential to a parliamentary system of government in 1991]. This amendment was unanimously adopted in the parliament. The foreign minister said the people had not given an absolute majority to any party during the last elections; but we have gained an absolute majority after the elections due to the reserved seats for women. It was for this reason that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has laid emphasis on administering the country on the basis of a consensus. The foreign minister said this consensus does not mean one-party rule; every party will have their respective policy and programs, but a consensus can be reached among them on major national issues.

Replying to a question, the foreign minister said that the six diplomats involved in the killing of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his family members [in the coup of 1975] have been ordered to come back to the country. He said only one of them had returned to the country. In reply to a question from newsmen on the action the present government would take against those who have refused to comply with the order the foreign minister said: Wait and see.

India

India: Gujral Comments on U.S. Mediation on Kashmir

BK1607142496 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 16 Jul 96 p 7

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India today [15 July] indicated its willingness for bilateral talks with Pakistan on a wide range of issues, including the possibility of a no-war pact between the two countries. But there was no question of agreeing to the Pakistani suggestion of United States mediation.

The Indian stand was reiterated as External Affairs Minister I K Gujral faced members' queries during Question Hour in the Lok Sabha.

He said India had responded to a letter from Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto on H D Deve Gowda's Government coming to power. But there had been no formal reply to the Indian letter proposing bilateral talks. Gujral suggested that a reply might be on its way.

Gujral refused to speculate on the outcome of exercise, but indicated India's "optimism." He said India had not proposed any framework for resumption of talks with Pakistan.

He welcomed Pakistan Commerce Minister's recent statement to separate trade from politics and hoped that the South Asian Preferential Trade Arrangement (SAPTA) would help boost bilateral trade.

He said India was encouraging people-to-people contact between the two countries. It was also examining relaxation of movement of books and periodicals between the two countries.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

He said India would be willing to reopen its consulate in Karachi if Pakistan permitted. This would permit smooth handling of visa applications from Pakistanis.

Gujral was not keen on the suggestion that the Government should hold consultation with political parties on framing a policy towards Pakistan. He said there was unanimity among all parties on foreign policy issues.

The Minister informed that a Pakistani parliamentary delegation is likely to visit India soon.

The Indo-Pakistan relations also figured in written replies today by the Government in Parliament today. The issue ranged from the Pakistani delay in granting most favoured nation (MFN) status to India to New Delhi's concern over Pakistan's nuclear weapons programme.

Gujral also told the Parliament that India had repeatedly conveyed its concern at the US decision to transfer the arms package to Islamabad. The Government was determined to take all necessary measures to counter any adverse effect on national security, he said.

India: Government Denies 'Last-Minute Change' on CTBT Stance

BK1807144896 Madras THE HINDU in English 18 Jul 96 p 11

[Report by K.K. Katyal]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In their latest round of talks with the Delhi-based foreign Ambassadors in the last two days, senior officials of the External Affairs Ministry have left little doubt that India would not be a party to the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) in its present form.

The purpose, obviously, was to impress upon the other Governments the futility of banking on any last-minute change in India's stand. According to the revised CTBT draft, the association of India, along with two other threshold powers, Pakistan and Israel, would be necessary for the treaty to enter into force. New Delhi wanted others, especially those actively involved in the treaty negotiations, to realise the implications of India's decision to carry to the logical conclusion its opposition to the draft, voiced at the meetings of the Conference on Disarmament [C.D.] at Geneva.

Following the categorical indication of India's stand, the sponsors of the treaty will, hopefully, do some hard calculations — taking into account the various contingencies and scenarios. What exactly happens after July 29 will, to a great extent, depend upon the procedures followed by the C.D. which, as a negotiating body different from the U.N. and its agencies, had been evolving its own norms. It has to transmit the treaty to the U.N. General Assembly but there would be qualitative variations in the scenarios, depending upon the choice of procedures.

If India's support is to be treated as a "must" for the treaty to enter into force, New Delhi's opposition would mean the end of the present exercise of the C.D. that began more than two years ago. If the treaty draft is sent to the General Assembly, in the face of India's reservations, it will lack the force, that would have been carried by a document if it had the unanimous backing of the participants in the Geneva Conference. Some other nations may be emboldened to articulate their reservations which, because of various factors, did not find expression at the C.D.. The sponsors of the treaty would have to reckon with these possibilities as they try the General Assembly route to complete a process that could not be finished at Geneva.

If the key provision of the draft is changed and India (along with two others) is not to be made a party either for its adoption or its enforcement, the situation will be different. The C.D. would have the satisfaction of finalising the draft, to be sent to the General Assembly, while India will not be bound by the obligations flowing from it.

These are only India-related scenarios, but as is well known, some important countries have taken exception to another provision — for on-site inspection, the cases of suspected or alleged violation of the CTBT. China is among the countries which have taken a firm stand on the issue. The reservations on this count will need to be addressed at the last-stage discussions in Geneva and suspense, in this context, continues to be strong.

India: New Delhi Reports 'Increasing Public Pressure' To Sign CTBT

BK1807133396 Delhi THE PIONEER in English 18 Jul 96 p 11

[Report by Shubha Singh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Conference on Disarmament in Geneva is to resume discussions on the proposed Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty in another ten days and the pre-session activity on the subject has become more intense with pressures mounting on countries for an early conclusion of the treaty.

During the talks in June, India had made it clear that it could not sign the draft treaty in the present form, but it would not walk-out of the discussions either. In a further display of its good intentions towards the goal of global disarmament for which a truly comprehensive test ban could be a step in the right direction, India's Permanent

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Representative at Geneva Arundhati Ghose had stated that India would not try to obstruct the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

However, the increasing public pressure on New Delhi has forced the Government to enter into wider consultations with the other political parties in India to arrive at a consensus on the subject. Even before the Indian statement was made in Geneva, other political parties, including the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] had been consulted. Some suggestions, particularly those from the CPI(M) [Communist Party of India-Marxist] were incorporated in the statement

While some countries may still believe that the United Front Government because of its inherent fragility would not be able to stand up to arm-twisting on the CTBT, in actual fact it is the same aspect which makes it necessary for the Government to take the views of the other political parties into account.

It is the Government with a clear majority in Parliament which is in a position to ride rough-shod over the opinions of the opposition parties. External Affairs Minister Mr Inder Kumar Gujral has ensured that all the major political parties have been consulted on the subject.

Mr Gujral's statement in Parliament does not mention that India will not act to wreck the treaty. This means that New Delhi is now keeping open the hard option of actively opposing the draft treaty. A position it has been forced to adopt because of the attitudes and reactions on display in the last month on the CTBT issue.

The discussions have already spilled over the deadline of June 1996 and the US is keen to wrap up the treaty before the US Presidential elections later this year. The public hectoring by the British and to a lesser extent by the Russian negotiator has now, in the inter-session period, turned to less public means of exerting pressure. Washington has sent a demarche to both New Delhi and Islamabad on the subject, though couched in entirely different terms.

Washington has asked Islamabad not to tag its own stand to the CTBT to the Indian position. Islamabad has said that, though it had its own objections to the proposed draft, it would sign the treaty if India did so. The US demarche seeks to get Islamabad to agree to the treaty on its own.

The demarche from Washington to New Delhi aims to ensure that India does nothing to obstruct the draft treaty. For even if India makes a formal request for changes in the treaty at the time it is being concluded that would affect the chances of it going through.

However, a controversy of sorts has been generated in New Delhi over whether India should harden its stand at the Geneva talks when the discussions resume on July 29. Some sections have advocated that India should exercise a veto against the present draft which does not reflect India's concerns at all. This view is based on the fact that decisions at the Conference of Disarmament have to be by consensus and in case no modifications are made in the present draft treaty, India should vote against it.

Indian officials, on the other hand, contend that Conference of Disarmament decisions are based on the principle of consensus, but that does not mean unanimity. But India's active opposition could encourage other countries to also give greater voice to their objections — an event that the proponents of the CTBT in its present form would want to avoid at all costs.

India Remains Committed Against 'Discriminatory CTBT'

BK1807135396 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 18 Jul 96 p 8

[Article by Madhu Dandavate: "Discriminatory CTBT"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Despite all professions about the 'equality among nations' made from various international fora, the attitude of the developed countries, particularly the nuclear powers, in regard to disarmament, non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and comprehensive ban on nuclear tests is highly discriminatory. Different yardsticks are used for the developed and developing countries and nuclear and non-nuclear states. The nuclear powers are allowed to go ahead without restraining their nuclear potential while others are expected not to resort to nuclear proliferation.

At the preparatory meeting held in Geneva for the purpose of review of the 1995 Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), no appreciable change of approach was visible in regard to basic policies in the case of nuclear states. It is presumed that the world is quite safe in the hands of developed nations, which possess nuclear weapons, but there is a threat to its safety if there is nuclear proliferation in the developing world.

It cannot be denied that the talks on disarmament and avoidance of nuclear war were started when the United States had to face the reality that the former Soviet Union had already developed a matching nuclear weapon capability. It may appear rather strange, but the fact is that the balance of terror was the incentive to the big powers to adopt the posture of peace and disarmament.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The nuclear states wanted the NPT to be extended unconditionally before a full review of its performance by 165 countries, which are a party to it. These nuclear states have been creating hurdles in evolving a comprehensive approach to nuclear disarmament. There were some non-aligned states which were willing to extend the NPT only if the nuclear states showed their willingness to have a time-bound programme to reduce nuclear armaments. Article VI of the NPT binds parties to "pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear armament and on a treaty on the general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control".

The preamble of the treaty clearly mentions that the objectives of the treaty are: "To facilitate the cessation of the manufacture of nuclear weapons, the liquidation of all their existing stockpiles and the elimination from national arsenals of nuclear weapons and the means of their delivery pursuant to a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control."

The conference at Geneva which debated the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), was oblivious of these obligations. India had the sense of realism to comprehend that commitment to associate with the CTBT, without any guarantee of a timebound scheme of global disarmament, was fraught with dangerous consequences. India' s unconditional support to the CTBT would have meant meekly submitting to the most discriminatory treaty that would put severe restraints on the non-nuclear states, while assuring a privileged position to the nuclear powers with no obligation not to augment their capability to produce nuclear weapons or to prevent indiscriminate transfer of nuclear weapon technology, materials and equipment required for the production of nuclear weapons.

The failure to hammer out an agreement on the CTBT at the Geneva Conference was not surprising. In 1966, the non-aligned members of the 18-nation-disarmament committee had presented a memorandum which had demanded a comprehensive test ban, halt to production of fissionable material for the purposes of nuclear weapons, gradual reduction of nuclear weapons, banning the use of nuclear weapons and their means of delivery and security assurances to the non-nuclear weapon states. However, the nuclear weapon states showed scant respect for the demands presented in the memorandum.

The conference in 1980 held to review the NPT's implementation could not succeed because the developing countries firmly refused to adopt the statement of the conference unless there was a specific commitment that there would be comprehensive test ban by 1995. The United States and the United Kingdom refused to give such a commitment. But unnerved by the firm attitude of the developing countries, the US administration, as a strategic and diplomatic move to secure the extension of the NPT, agreed to a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

The Americans knew that such a treaty could not affect them much since their arsenal of nuclear weapons was quite large and the fissile cut-off convention would not hurt them since they had a large pile of the required stuff. The developing countries had to take cognisance of the fact that there was no obligation whatsoever on the US to reveal what it should do with its existing stockpiles.

Learning from the past experience, India had to take note of the stark reality that the main nuclear powers had built up an extremely iniquitous system, which gave a privileged position to them and meted out discriminatory treatment to the developing countries. The perspective which India has adopted regarding the CTBT is in tune with its consistently correct approach. This approach, conveyed to the Geneva Conference through the speech of India's Ambassador Arundhati Ghose, is loud and clear. Against the background of India's unfortunate experience, the ambassador giving the quintessence of India's attitude to the CTBT, unequivocally stated:

"India had demonstrated its resolve in the past. We have refused to accede to the discriminatory order of today's international nuclear regime. This policy has been maintained, despite pressures of one sort or another. The same conviction is reflected in our stand on the CTBT. Last year, we expressed our dismay at the indefinite extension of the NPT because, in our view, it sought to legitimise the indefinite possession of nuclear weapons by five countries. Today the right to continue development and refinement of their arsenals is being sought to be legitimised through another flawed and eternal treaty. Such a treaty is not conceived as a measure towards universal nuclear disarmament and is not in India's national security interest. India, therefore, cannot subscribe to it in the present form."

The superficial alterations in the original CTBT draft were not acceptable to India since its basic concerns were almost ignored in the new draft. There was not even a semblance of any time-bound programme of nuclear disarmament or ban on nuclear blasts in the laboratories.

Prof Stephen P. Cohen, Director of the Programme in Arms Control, Disarmament and International Security at the University of Illinois and a leading specialist on South Asian security issue, supporting India's stand on the CTBT has observed: "No sovereign nation is

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

going to compromise its survival or its security for the sake of a treaty." There could not have been a better interpretation of the just stand India had adopted regarding the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty than the one put forward by Prof Cohen.

The protracted discussions at the Geneva Conference could not end the discord between the nuclear and the non-nuclear states. In the fond hope that time would be the best healer, the negotiations on the CTBT, which have shown no respect for India's concerns, have been postponed till July 29. Despite deferring the issue to a future date, there appears little possibility of India's agreeing to the CTBT as long as the nuclear states do not resile from their pronounced discriminatory approach towards the non-nuclear states.

India: Concern Expressed Over PRC's Military Preparations in Tibet

BK1607152396 Delhi NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 15 Jul 96 p 8

[Report by Ranjit Kumar]

[FBIS Translated Text] In order to enhance its strike power, China is lengthening the air strips of its 11 Air Force base stations in the Tibet region. According to military sources here, the normal length of these air strips is 3,000 feet, but China is extending their length to as much as 9,000 feet so that it can facilitate the landing of its large fighters and bombers. It may be recalled that China recently purchased approximately 100 Sukhoi-27 fighter planes from Russia, which are of the latest series and are capable of bombarding targets at quite a long range.

Since the Tibetan air bases of China can only be used to launch attacks against Indian targets, China's preparations are causing great concern to Indian defense strategists. Thus far, the only strategic problem for China was the inability of its fighter planes to reach Indian regions in one stage, whereas Indian fighter planes were quite capable of reaching and launching a direct attack against the Tibetan regions under China's control. Due to the high altitude, China had earlier been unable to build longer air strips in the Tibetan region, but it has begun to renovate its air base landing strips after having received the latest series of bombers in order to facilitate the landings of these newly acquired planes.

It may be mentioned that while speaking recently on India's military preparations against China, Mr. Greg Kople, chief of defense and foreign affairs of a London based strategic institution, opined that the way China was implementing its strategic plans in the Indian Ocean did not augur well for India's interest. China has given Myanmar [Burma] military aid worth $3 billion, and now Myanmar is developing its naval base at Coco Island near India's Andaman archipelago. Due to its solid military cooperation with Pakistan, China is awaiting special facilities at Karachi's naval port. Together with these preparations, China is further fortifying its military bases in Tibet. According to Greg Kople, China's military preparations pose a serious threat to India's security, which is being surrounded by grave dangers on every side.

A question was also raised the day before yesterday in the Indian parliament concerning China's military preparations threatening Indian security. Replying to this question, the Indian defense minister confessed India's worry and affirmed that India was alert to the danger the close military alliance between China and Pakistan is posing to its security. Defense Minister Mulayam Singh Yadav assured the members of the house that India was quite aware of these military preparations by China. He added that India was closely monitoring all the military preparations of it neighbors, specially those that seemed to threaten India's security, so that our country will always be prepared to see that do no harm to our national security interests.

India: ICJ Ruling Against Nuclear First Use Supports Indian Policy

BK1707103896 Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 17 Jul 96 p 10

[Article by K. Subrahmanyam: "No Nuclear First Use: the Case for Indian Initiative"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The International Court of Justice (ICJ) recently ruled in a split verdict with a casting vote by the president of the Court that the threat or use of nuclear weapons would generally be contrary to the rules of international law applicable in armed conflict. The Court could not conclude definitively whether the threat or use of nuclear weapons would be lawful or unlawful in an extreme circumstance of self defence in which the very survival of a state would be at stake.

The ICJ has not declared the possession of nuclear weapons illegal. It may have been influenced by the fact that 180 nations had legitimised the possession of nuclear weapons through the extension of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which is a contract among an overwhelming majority of the members of the international community. This view, that possession of nuclear weapons by itself is not illegal was also supported by the deliberations of the Catholic Bishops in the 1980s.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Traditional Concepts

The Court by implication has come out against the threat and use of nuclear weapons in armed conflict and this is in accordance with the traditional concepts of just war which prescribes proportionality in the use of force.

It is logical that if the possession of nuclear weapons cannot be banned or declared illegal, then the right of self-defence — when a nation is threatened by use of nuclear weapons and its very survival may be at stake — would permit it to retaliate. Hence, the Court's refusal to rule out the legality of possession of nuclear weapons and its unwillingness to rule on the retaliatory use go together. The Court has, therefore, implicitly endorsed the "no first-use" doctrine. That is also based on well known principles in law whereby, while deliberate killing of a person is unlawful, the law permits a killing carried out in self-defence.

Indian nuclear policy though not articulated explicitly on the above lines follows the principle now endorsed by the ICJ. India has developed a nuclear deterrent capability but also has proclaimed a no first-use policy. This was articulated by Mr Raja Ramanna as a minister of state for defence in the Rajya Sabha in May, 1990. He said India considered the use of nuclear capability in war as a crime against humanity and would never do it, and expressed the hope that our neighbours would follow the same policy. If they did not, he asserted, India would rise to the occasion. Subsequently India had mooted in one of the six non-papers, offered as a basis for discussions with Pakistan in January 1994, a proposal for a mutual agreement on no first-use of nuclear capability. Pakistan has not reacted positively to this proposal nor has it finally and totally rejected it.

In some quarters it is argued that declaration of no first use amounts to admission of possession of nuclear weapons. Strictly speaking it does not mean that. It only means that the nation has the capability to assemble nuclear weapons or even use radioactive materials in radiological warfare. In that sense nuclear capability is a much wider concept than possession of nuclear weapons alone. In any case with the ICJ accepting that possession of a nuclear arsenal is not illegal and not ruling on its use in self-defence India need have no reservation about declaring that it is in possession of a nuclear deterrent; that it intends to abide by the opinion of the ICJ, of not using or threatening to use it in a way which will be contrary to the international laws of armed conflict; and that it reserves the right to use it in retaliation when its own survival is threatened by a nuclear attack. The problem with many who have not thought through the issue is that they regard possession of the nuclear weapon as a sin. Even the Bishops did not think so.

India's Status

India's status as a nuclear-capable power along with that of Israel and Pakistan has been recognised by nuclear weapon powers even as they insist on these three countries joining the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). There is nothing inappropriate in acknowledging this status. There is no international treaty which bans possession of nuclear weapons. While India is in a position to declare itself as a nuclear deterrent power which will conform to the norms prescribed by the ICJ, the other two nuclear capable powers are not in a position to do so. Pakistan and Israel have not developed their weapons capability along with a doctrine of no first-use. Their doctrine is on the lines of that adopted by western powers which refuse to give a no first-use pledge while India's stand will be analogous to that of China which was the first and only declared nuclear weapon power to proclaim its adherence to the no first-use doctrine. The Soviet Union professed the no first-use doctrine from 1982 to 1992 and thereafter switched over to the western doctrine of using nuclear weapons as an instrument of intimidation not of deterrence. The Chinese proposal for the five nuclear weapon powers to conclude an agreement for no first-use was opposed by other nuclear weapon powers.

This is the time for India to declare unilaterally no first-use of its capability. By doing so India can send out a message that it has a deterrent capability which is not in violation of any international law, and that by not joining the CTBT it reserves the right to carry out future nuclear tests when required by its supreme security interests.

Pakistan's Bluff

India's unilateral declaration of no first-use will call Pakistan's bluff. Pakistan had put forward a number of bogus proposals such as a nuclear weapons free zone, both India and Pakistan joining the NPT together and both countries renouncing nuclear weapons. At the same time Pakistan is reluctant to accept no first-use proposed by India since the Pakistanis argue on the lines of the Cold War NATO doctrine that they need the option to use nuclear weapons first to deter the larger Indian conventional capability. If that argument is valid then how sincere were they in offering to give up totally their nuclear capability? By making this unilateral declaration India would be able to shift the responsibility of all future nuclear tension to Pakistan. If Pakistan cannot take this very first and minimal step in confidence-building it cannot carry much credibility in advocating other, more intrusive, arms control measures.

Once India takes a no first-use position, we should pursue with China the idea of a joint international agree-

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

ment against first-use. Since China initiated the idea it cannot refuse to go along without losing its credibility. There is a joint declaration between China and Russia on no first-use and the next step will be to promote a trilateral agreement. That could become a major Asian initiative to start a process of delegitimisation of first-use of nuclear weapons.

It may be recalled that Geneva protocol of 1925 was a no first-use agreement in respect of chemical weapons. If no first use gains momentum pressures will build up on the three western nuclear weapon powers in various ways. There will be questions about the need for ballistic missile defence. If only all nuclear weapon powers would subscribe to no first-use then any rogue state attempting a resort to use or threat of use of nuclear weapons can be dealt with effectively. In that sense no first-use is the most effective counter proliferation strategy. India has a unique opportunity to initiate this progressive trend by coming out with a unilateral declaration of no first-use.

India: Increased Central Asian Ties for Security, Trade Urged

BK1607141596 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 16 Jul 96 p 8

[Article by J.N. Dixit: "Ties With Central Asia: Time To Move Forward"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Deputy Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan A. Shakirov [name and title as published] was candid about the present state of India's relations with his country in particular and Central Asia in general. He told me during my recent visit to Central Asia that though high-level contacts have provided a basis for multifaceted relations, India does not seem to be focussed on Central Asia. The policy orientations articulated during discussions between former Prime Minister Narasimha Rao and President Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan have not been transmitted to actual programmes or projects. The same lament was conveyed to me in general terms by senior government officials and political commentators in Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan.

This assessment of the present state of India's relations with Central Asian countries was a bit of an anticlimax for me, because at the time of their emergence as independent countries in 1992, one of the specific policy decisions taken by the Narasimha Rao Government was to give special attention to building up and expanding relations with all the five new republics: Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. In consequence, India made a purposive beginning by establishing diplomatic relations, opened cultural centres and paved the way for high-level visits. It adopted joint declarations containing guiding political principles for bilateral relations.

As a back-up to these initiatives, we made arrangements with Iran and the Russian Federation for availing of transit facilities through their territories for commercial and economic contacts with the Central Asian Republics. In spite of all this, India's relations today seem to be in a limbo, specially when compared to the nature and extent of relations which countries like Iran, Turkey, China, Korea, Pakistan, and even Indonesia have with these republics, not to mention the intense political and economic involvement of the United States and other Western democracies like Germany and Canada. Russia, despite its limitations and political uncertainties, remains profoundly interested in retaining its influence in these countries. The desirability of our having substantive relations with Central Asia needs no overemphasis, but detailing them would be relevant.

Central Asia constitutes a vital region on our north-western flank. Our having a good equation with the region can generate a stable strategic and security environment for us on our northern and north-western flank. The region is rich in natural resources and there is demand for manpower, technology and other economic inputs, which could be of mutual benefit to India and Central Asia. Despite the Islamic affiliation of the people of the area, they are generally averse to religious extremism and fanatical orthodoxy. The Central Asian peoples and their leadership are inclined towards consolidating their social and political destiny on the basis of modern rational terms of reference. These countries can be a useful additional channel of linkages with the two great Asian powers, Russia and China. Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan can be the sources for oil supplies and valuable minerals to India. Scientific and technological cooperation would be significant to the mutual benefit in the spheres of mining, exploration for energy sources and peaceful uses of space technology.

A brief reference to details of India's relations with Uzbekistan Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan would be relevant. Apart from the agreements for various categories of cooperation signed between Uzbekistan and India, the volume of Indo-Uzbek trade in 1995 was of the order of $ 20 million. Indian companies are involved in joint ventures in Uzbekistan for the production of electronic goods, brassware, stainless steel utensils, medicines, tea processing machinery and machinery for the production of cotton yarn and manufacture of bicycles. There are no differences of opinion on political issues with Uzbekistan, though President Islam Karimov is inclined to strengthen relations with Pakistan and other Islamic countries for domestic political purposes. He has also been somewhat ambiguous about Indian concerns on

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

issues like Kashmir. India and Kazakhstan have signed nine agreements on bilateral cooperation since 1992. Indo-Kazakh bilateral trade in 1995 was of the order of $ 30 million. Nonresident Indian multinational companies like Ispats (Mittals) and Hindujas are getting involved in the steel and energy sectors of Kazakhstan's economy. Kazakhstan would welcome India providing investments, manpower and technologies for its economic reconstruction, particularly in spheres where the more advanced industrial countries are reluctant to get involved.

Relations with Kyrgyzstan have expanded gradually for the last five years. Agreements signed during Kyrgyz President Akayev's visit to India in 1992 and Prime Minister Rao's visit to Bishkek in 1995 provide the framework for structuring and expanding these relations. The agreements cover an entire range of bilateral relations from political cooperation to economic and cultural exchanges. They also cover the spheres of tourism, science and technology, cooperation between the private sectors and so on. Indo-Kyrgyz trade in 1995 was calculated at only $ 1.7 million.

But trade through informal channels could be higher in volume worth between $3 to 4 million. Projects for cooperation in the fields of exploring for oil and natural gas, to extract mineral resources, or the creation of food processing industries, for the manufacture of pharmaceuticals and chemicals are in the pipeline.

While the range of activities should make one optimistic about the prospects of India's relations with the Central Asian countries, the problem is that despite the passage of three and a half to four years, proposals and projects still remain more or less at the "drawing board" stage, where as the performance of other countries engaged in similar activities has assumed operational dimensions. There is concern in these countries about India's delay in taking follow-up action on the initiatives taken as far back as 1992 and 1993. We must also take note of the fact that the land-locked Central Asian countries would have a vested interest in having good relations with Pakistan to get an outlet to the sea through the Pakistani ports of Gwadar and Karachi. They wish to do without their exclusive dependence on Russian and Iranian ports. The quid pro quo that Pakistan would demand would be that they distance themselves from India.

In terms of our strategic and economic interests, we must focus attention on the Central Asian region as we have on the ASEAN region over the last five years. We must perceive Central Asia as an integral part of our neighbourhood. Our policies should be predicated on the perception that multifaceted relations with Central Asia are essential for the security and stability of an integrated strategic region extending from the northern limits of the Central Asian Republics to the southern extremities of the South Asian region.

Two overarching attitudes of Central Asian countries should animate our interest in them and provide a dynamic impulse for substantive relations between India and these countries. The first attitude is their considering relations with India as a factor which will provide equilibrium in their relations with Russia, China, the United States, Turkey and Iran. The second attitude is a considered assessment on their part that India can be a very useful partner in their efforts at national reconstruction and diversification and restructuring of their economies. A positive response from us to these attitudes is both desirable and necessary.

India: GATT Accord 'Dropped a Bombshell' Concerning Intellectual Property

BK1807150996 Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 18 Jul 96 p 10

[Article by Suman Sahai: "India Should Avoid TRIP Traps"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] As soon as the GATT accord was finalised and member nations had agreed to trade on a multilateral basis, the Americans dropped a bombshell. The ink was scarcely dry on the GATT treaty when, then United States Trade Representative (USTR) Mickey Kantor, casually let it be known that irrespective of GATT and its mandate for fostering free and fair trade, the US intended to continue the use of the US trade law Special 301 to penalise countries. Mr Kantor went on to add that the GATT/WTO conditions did not adequately protect US interests and that they would use their own instruments to ensure that they get what they thought were legitimate American dues.

Although Mr Kantor is no longer the USTR, his post GATT statement has now been given an institutional, legal form. According to a recent release from the office of the USTR, the US has incorporated the Special 301 provision into the Uruguay Round Agreements Act with an amendment which clarifies that a country can be found to deny adequate and effective intellectual property protection even if it is in compliance with its obligations under the Trade Related Intellectual Properties (TRIPs) agreement.

US Policy

The Uruguay Round Agreement Act is the national legislation that will guide US policy and actions in everything concerned with the agreements reached in the Uruguay Round. Special 301 is part of this Act.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The provisions of the Special 301, as amended, require the USTR to determine whether the acts, policies and practices of foreign countries deny "adequate and effective" protection of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) or fair and equitable market access for US citizens who rely on intellectual property protection.

On formalising the Uruguay Round Agreements Act, the US administration reiterated its commitment to ensuring full and effective implementation of the Special 301 provisions of the Trade Act and rapid implementation of the WTO/TRIPs agreement. The US administration also said it would continue to "encourage" other countries to accelerate implementation of the WTO/TRIPs agreement and move to even higher levels of IPR protection.

WTO it will be recalled, did away with the 10-year transition period granted to developing countries in the Uruguay GATT Round. This period was given to countries to reorient and retrain their institutions and staff in order to adjust to a new system of patent laws. Instead of bringing in changes in patent laws in 2004, WTO required that amendments to patent laws be in place by January 1, 1995 when the new body came into being.

It was in order to comply with this demand that the Indian government had introduced a Patent Amendment Act by Presidential Ordinance on the night of December 31, 1994. This ordinance has since lapsed. The Patent Amendment Act which was subsequently presented to Parliament was passed by the Lok Sabha but rejected by the Rajya Sabha which declared that its contents were not in the national interest. After that a select committee of the Rajya Sabha was appointed to hear evidence on the draft bill. The effort was to find a compromise on the contents of the bill so that it could be presented to the Rajya Sabha again in a form that would be acceptable.

While the select committee was still hearing evidence, elections were called, the last government lost power and a new government is in place now. The patent amendment bill will have to be dealt with afresh. Perhaps a new select committee will be formed and be required to make a recommendation to the Rajya Sabha.

There are essential questions that need to be asked now. Should India comply with TRIPs? What meaning would such compliance have? What is the relevance of WTO as a multilateral forum, given the latest shape of the Uruguay round agreements act? If the Americans are going to do what they want anyway, whether we comply with TRIPs or not, does it make sense to bring in harsh, unpopular changes in our laws just to be TRIPs worthy?

Creative Legislation

If the US does not recognise TRIPs as a binding agreement then everything of importance related to it will have to be negotiated bilaterally. In that case it makes more sense than ever for us to draft our laws on IPR in the way that protects our interests best, regardless of TRIPs. These domestic legislations should form the basis of further negotiations. We should in this case take a position on micro-organisms instead of accepting the prevailing TRIPs position by default. We can craft a creative and sensitive sui generis legislation and perhaps even try to get some kind of transition period.

This development in domestic US legislation has great bearing on all countries required to change their patent laws. There is a need for developing countries to coordinate their efforts to resist US pressure. Countries like Argentina, Chile and Australia have already drafted good IPR legislations which protect their national interests. There is no reason why India cannot do the same. Developing countries have always looked to India for leadership in GATT related issues. For our government, let there be a lesson from India's recent success at the Leipzig conference on Genetic Resources and Farmers Rights. In the face of bitter opposition by the OECD [Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development] countries, the developing countries united behind India and succeeded in getting the rights of farmers recognised in FAO's [Food and Agriculture Organization] Global Plan of Action.

Iran

Iran: Majles Official Comments on U.S. Stand, Majles Priorities

NC1807195096 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 14 Jul 96 pp 1, 14

[TEHRAN TIMES Service report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran — The U.S. should come to realize that other nations will not bow down before its bullying, sacrificing their national interests, Hojatolleslam Ali Movahhedi-Savoji, member of the Presiding Body of the Majles, told the TEHRAN TIMES.

Condemning Washington's hostile policies towards Iran, Savoji stated that Europe's opposition to the U.S. trade embargo on Iran indicates that other countries will not follow what the U.S. would like to dictate to them.

As for priorities of the 5th Majles, he said that elimination of poverty, supporting vulnerable strata and marching forward for spreading social justice are among the main objectives of the 5th Majles.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Recalling the guidelines of the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed-Ali Khamenei, wherein the Leader asked the parliamentarians to cooperate closely with the executive for the sake of country's further development and construction, Savoji stressed that all the parliamentarians will spare no effort to materialize this ideal.

Asked whether the Second Five-Year Development Plan can guarantee social justice in the society, Savoji said that the majority of parliamentarians believe that development and economic growth should be accompanied by social justice.

The 4th Majles did its utmost to harmonize social justice with development and economic growth, Savoji said.

To this end the 4th Majles not only allocated a considerable amount of money to subsidize essential goods but also opposed high increase in fuel prices, he added.

Setting out a ceiling for government's foreign debts was among other proposals offered and approved by the 4th Majles, he said, adding that the law called on the government to reduce its total debts by 5 percent annually during the Second Five-Year Development Plan.

Furthermore, it prevented the government from incurring more than $25 billion debt by the end of the Second Five-Year Development Plan, he added.

Savoji said appointing committed and revolutionary people to run key posts in the country, widespread campaign against cultural assault, and safeguarding Islamic values will help prevent Western influences.

Iran: Editorial on 'Indifference' Toward U.S.-Israeli 'Bullying'

NC1807194896 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 14 Jul 96 p 2

[Editorial: "Washington: Advocate of Peace or Continued Bloodshed?"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Binyamin Netanyahu's five-day visit to Washington proved that the U.S. will support any incumbent in the prime minister's office in Tel Aviv. In other words, the security of the Jewish state occupies such a vantage position in U.S. Middle East policy that it entitles the seat of power, not the person wielding the power, to receive any support.

Brazenly scrapping the principle of "land for peace" which dominated overall peace talks so far, Netanyahu proposed "security for peace" and received a standing ovation from both houses of the U.S., and the support of the Clinton Administration.

This latest display of how the U.S. wavers in its support for the Arabs and its unconditional support of the Jewish state should prod Arabs and the world's Muslims in general to examine the future which lies ahead of them in the wake of this historic development.

The final communique issued by the eight Arab-countries on Sunday "inspires hope," but it in no way hits the nail right on the head. It expresses deep concern over Netanyahu's extreme right polices but fails to acknowledge the root of the problem: Arab countries' blind trust in the U.S.

While they may have realized that normalization of relations with the Jewish state would be futile if Netanyahu insists on his policies; they fail to go all the way out in negating the talks itself for the reason that the broker—the U.S.—is actually encouraging the Israeli occupiers to violate the terms of any agreement already reached with them. In short, their continued support of the peace talks is as futile as the flogging of a dead horse.

The Arabs, perhaps, have not learned the lesson. They still insist that Israel should respect its commitments and implement the UN resolutions. The demand is a just one by all international standards. But it is clear that the U.S. and the Jewish state have no intention of honoring those commitments and resolutions.

The ball is now in the court of the Arabs and Muslims. They should take a hard stand by forcing the Likud Party to change its position and comply with the UN resolutions. Issuing rhetorics is not enough. The Arab-Muslim world must press for action now.

It is sad that the Jewish state and the U.S. have made a mockery of all international norms and values, while countries, big and small, remain deaf and dumb spectators.

True, the Arabs and the Muslims should be more concerned about their future. However, each and every country on the face of the globe bears a heavy responsibility in insisting on a just course towards peace. Indifference towards U.S.-Israeli bullying today will cause humanity to pay a heavy price for it tomorrow.

Iran: Commentary Assesses U.S. Sanctions, Presidential Election

LD1807125496 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 18 Jul 96

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] According to the AFP news agency, the American Senate ratified the plan to intensify Washington's punitive measures against foreign

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

companies investing in Iran and Libya's oil and gas industries.

According to this law, that should also be signed by the U.S. President Bill Clinton, punitive measures will be implemented against the oil companies dealing with Iran. These punishments include that group of the companies with oil agreements amounting to $40 million. Measures like halting commerce transactions of the United States with the sanctioned companies and a ban on the American financial institutions to render loans over $10 million are some of the considered punishments in the said plan.

The U.S. Senate representatives have actually voted to a law which aims to give more authority to the American President for gaining success in the implementation of the U.S.-imposed embargo against Iran.

The U.S.-imposed embargo was ratified in June 1995. However, a year after its implementation Clinton's administration has faced many hurdles in reaching its aim against Iran. Therefore, the action of the U.S. Senate in this regard is not at all surprising. However, what should be contemplated as the (?reigning) atmosphere of Europe and U.S. ties? The European Union members during the recent weeks have strongly criticized the intensification of the U.S.-imposed embargoes, especially against Cuba and Iran; and have threatened that if the plan would be implemented they would take retaliatory measures. The European Union pressures on Washington have been mainly due to the motivations for the European economic interests against the United States, and it has managed to make Clinton retreat up to a certain extent. Meanwhile, it should be noted that Clinton's Administration has many motivations for supporting this plan, especially regarding Iran. From the political experts' perspective, the intensification of the U.S.-imposed embargoes against Iran [?possesses] legal channels while there are only four months left to the U.S. presidential elections.

Meanwhile, the determination of the U.S. foreign policy towards Iran during the U.S. elections' rivalries is considered as one of the victory or defeat factors of this country's political parties. However, it is dubious whether this policy can enhance the Clinton Administrations chance in the elections.

Iran: Canadian Embassy Expresses Concern About Trade Embargo

LD1807150496 Tehran IRNA in English 1446 GMT 18 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 18, IRNA — The Canadian Embassy in a statement issued on Thursday expressed concern about any unilateral trade embargo that would have an extraterritorial effect.

The statement underlined that Canada had registered its concerns about the U.S. congressional bills on Iran in a diplomatic note to the U.S. Administration on April 29.

It reiterated that Canada objected to any unilateral sanctions which had an extraterritorial effect.

"Both the Iran/Libya bills and the Helms-Burton Act raise concerns about unilateral U.S. sanctions which have extra-territorial effects," the statement added.

Preventing officials of international companies engaged in trade with Iran from travelling to the U.S. is among measures taken by the U.S. Congress in a bid to force other countries join the embargo against Iran.

Iran: Foreign Ministry Source Denies Border Clash With Turkey

MM1907082196 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 18 Jul 96 p 4

[Report by Ghassan Jiddu: "Tehran Denies Clash on Border With Turkey"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Tehran — An authoritative source at the Iranian Foreign Ministry has denied to AL-HAYAH that Iranian forces attacked Turkish military posts on the common border. The source said that "the reports published by Turkish newspapers recently are absolutely baseless and not based on any official source." The source confirmed that 'Ala'eddin Borujerdi, Iranian assistant foreign minister for Asian-Pacific affairs, will visit Ankara today, where he will hand a written message from President Hashemi-Rafsanjani to Turkish Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan . The source did not rule out an official invitation from Rafsanjani to Erbakan to visit Iran. [passage omitted]

Iran: Joint Communique Issued at End of Turkmen President's Visit

LD1907083496 Tehran IRNA in English 0716 GMT 19 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 19, IRNA — A joint communique was issued simultaneously in Tehran and Ashgabat Thursday at the end of the three-day state visit of Turkmen President Saparmurad Niyazov to the Islamic Republic of Iran. Expressing their satisfaction with their growing trend of economic, political and cultural relations, the two countries also announced pleasure over the level of cooperation within the framework of the agreements reached between the two republics in the past and on the basis of mutual respect and good neighborly relations.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The two presidents further underlined the need to accelerate the establishment of the organization for cooperation among the Caspian Sea littoral states and agreed that the foreign ministerial meeting of the organization be held in Ashgabat in a near future.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and President Saparmurad Niyazov stressed that determination of the Caspian Sea legal regime by five littoral states is of primary importance.

The communique reiterated that the two countries consider trilateral cooperation involving Iran, Turkmenistan and one of the countries of the region as an apropriate way to promote regional and international relations and as a major factor ensuring peace and stability in the whole region.

The regional develpment requires peace and stability, the communique quoted the two presidents as saying and added that foreign intervention will not help settle regional crises particularly those in Afghanistan and Tajikistan.

Turkmenistan praised Iran's positive role in settlement of regional and international crises, while the Islamic Republic of Iran announced its support for Turkmenistan's impartial stance and its positive impacts on strengthening stability in the region.

Meanwhile, the two countries' delegations agreed that a joint committee with participation of heads of the two republics' railways companies be formed to draw procedures for exploitation of the Mashhad-Sarakhs-Tajan railroads.

Niyazov, heading a high-ranking delegation arrived here Monday on a four-day official visit at the invitation of President Rafsanjani. He was accompanied by his deputies for trade and political affairs as well as Turkmen members of the joint economic commission.

Iran: Radio Questions West's Motives, Uzbek Role in Afghanistan

LD1807152496 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 18 Jul 96

[Unattributed commentary; as heard throughout]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] According to reports from Afghanistan, in the recent days the political stance of this country has faced new and contradictory developments. While the coalition government led by Borhanoddin Rabbani and Golboddin Hekmatyar try to reconcile with the opposition, according to the leader of the National Mahaz Party the opposition intends to form a new united group. Meanwhile, some sources report the speedy efforts of some domestic and foreign political elements to elect the Afghani former king, Mohammad Zahir Shah, to power.

Although, due to the poor communication links in Afghanistan, the details of these developments are not perfectly clear, however, it seems that all these movements are seriously followed. But in this midst, the issue of Zahir Shah's return to power, which is stated by Western countries especially the U.S.A., is more sensitive compared to other political plans in Afghanistan, for it seems that the recent changes in the Afghan Government has further motivated all Western countries and Afghan and regional allies to carry out their plans in a way that, despite the fact that the possibility that this scenario on Zahir Shah's return to power after 23 years will succeed is far-fetched, significant coordination can be observed between this plan and the request of the range of (?Westerners) of Afghanistan.

In this trend, some observers consider the new efforts of the National Movement of the North and the National Mahaz Party for forming the union of opponents in favor of the U.S.A. and the West's interests.

It must be noted that this effort takes place with the support of Uzbekistan, whose president, Islam Karimov, has recently, in a visit to the States, clearly shown coordination with Washington policies. This indicates that although the West and its regional allies express concern regarding extremist Islamists following the coming to power of the Hekmatyar government in Afghanistan, they have other main reasons for increasing their presence in Afghanistan. So we can say that another dimension of efforts for forming a new front in Afghanistan is its ability to be influenced by political, regional pollings.

Of course, the organization which the Western [?range] in Afghanistan is trying to create will not be able to form a united opposition front due to the lack of the homogeny of the forces which are to form it. Therefore, as the designers of this organization have stated, its goals cannot be carried out and, this too, requires understanding with the present government.

Iran: Paper Calls For Islamic Summit To Confront Netanyahu

NC1807132696 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 11 Jul 96 p 2

[Editorial: "Netanyahu Reiterates 'Declaration of War'"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Since the right-wing Israeli Likud Party won the May elections, many Arab officials as well as analysts have been waiting for the outcome of Binyamin Netanyahu's visit to Washington hoping

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

that the U.S. might convince him to soften his stance on the peace process.

In his address to the Congress Wednesday, Netanyahu touched on three sensitive issues which have been considered vital for the continuation of Middle East peace.

On the question of Jerusalem, he strongly ruled out any division of the city saying that it will remain the "undivided, indivisible, capital of Israel: there will never be a redivision of Jerusalem, never."

On the issue of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories, he said, Israel insists "on the right of Jews to live anywhere in the land," which implies that the expansion of the Jewish settlements will continue. In his meeting with Clinton on Sunday [7 July], the premier of the Jewish state had said that Israel would not withdraw from the Golan Heights and other occupied territories.

This is the restatement of what brought him to office in May elections.

Netanyahu has subjected the continuation of the peace process with three conditions: security of Israel; reciprocation on the part of the Arabs; and democracy.

If security is a vital issue for the aggressor Israel, it is equally vital for its neighbors whose territories have remained under the occupation of the Zionist regime for decades. The Zionist regime should realize that occupation of land of its neighbors is no guarantee for its security.

As far as the reciprocation is concerned, in the first instance, Israel itself should be ready to reciprocate: Arabs too need security. In order to guarantee their security, Israel should withdraw from all occupied territories and pledge not to cast a covetous eye on the Arab lands again.

So far as democracy in Arab countries is concerned, Israel has no right to interfere in their internal affairs. Instead of shedding crocodile tears for the lack of democracy in the Arab countries, Netanyahu should allow all Palestinians from all parts of the world to return to their motherland. Then a "democratic" plebiscite should be held to decide the nature of the regime there in order to put an end to the hostility through the "democratic" method of referendum.

What the Arabs should bear in mind is that despite rhetoric statements, the U.S. is not a friend of the Arabs. During his address to the Congress which was tantamount to a "declaration of war" against the Arabs, Netanyahu several times received the standing and applauding of the Congress members. This happened while a number of Arab ambassadors were present in the Congress. No Arab ruler has ever been received by the American statesmen to that extent.

As Netanyahu said in his address, besides military assistance, Israel has been receiving "generous" aid from the U.S. for which he said, Israel is "deeply grateful." Probably the financial aids rendered to Israel have been met by the petrodollars that the Arab states have been spending on arms buildup without shooting a single bullet at Israel.

In his address, Netanyahu repeated the same absurd accusations against Iran that Bill Clinton and Warren Christopher have been repeating over the past several years. We do not intend to answer to his nonsensical accusations, for almost all impartial countries of the world confirm that Israel is the embodiment of state-sponsored terrorism. It has 200 nuclear warheads in its arsenal and has not allowed any international body to inspect its nuclear installations. It has violated all international rules and regulations on human rights.

Given Netanyahu's "declaration of war," the ball is in the court of the Muslim countries. It is time the Arab, Muslim countries convene a summit to draw a practical strategy to confront the "war" that Israel has waged on them. Reliance on the U.S. can no more help the Muslims. Muslim countries have to rely on themselves. Time is running out; the OIC should convene a summit to tackle the situation as soon as possible.

Iran: Ministerial Meeting in Muscat Viewed as 'Zionist Gathering'

LD1807131896 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 14 Jul 96 p 15

[Unattributed political commentary: "Muscat Plays Host to a New Treachery"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The foreign ministers of the six members of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, together with their Syrian and Egyptian counterparts, are meeting in Muscat today to exchange views on the latest developments in the Middle East and Persian Gulf, in a bid to bring their respective stands on these developments closer together. This meeting is a new step toward complementing the past activities of the Arabs, aimed at coordinating their stands with those of the new rulers of Israel.

Since last month, when the Likud party emerged victorious in the occupied Palestine elections and announced its policies geared toward impeding the trend of compromise between the Arabs and the usurper Israel, the capitals of Arab states have become the scene of hasty comings and goings of senior Arab officials.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Recent developments in occupied Palestine and the acquisition of power by the extremist Binyamin Netanyahu have suddenly placed the Arab regimes of the region, in particular the parties to the compromise process, in an extremely defensive position.

After all, the new gang ruling Israel is openly speaking about continuing the construction of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories, refusing to give back the Golan, halting any negotiation over the fate of Jerusalem, closing all PLO offices in that city, maintaining a military presence in southern Lebanon, and finally, considering as null and void the strategy of "land for peace." Despite these extremist policies, the Arab regimes have been unable to unite in the face of the new rulers of Israel, who seem to be openly and blatantly hostile and have in fact ridiculed the four-year trend of compromise talks. Instead, after the death of Rabin and the defeat of Peres in the elections, the Arab regimes, feeling that they had lost the focus of their hopes, have begun a series of efforts — from a position of weakness — to prepare themselves for accepting the newly emerged conditions.

These policies, which have made the Arab world fearful of the Zionists and their American allies, have taken proper shape and form in a gradual manner. As the Zionists have progressively become bolder in their new approach, the terrified Arabs have also become more convinced that they need to give more concessions to Israel to keep themselves safe and immune from the Zionists' harm.

This sense of fear and weakness has been almost universal among the Arabs. This is because, on the one hand, the war six years ago between Iraq and America and its allies created a kind of undeclared alliance in the Arab Middle East with the usurper Israel. On the other hand, amid all these developments, which in fact resemble a kind of well-planned American doctrine, the Cairo regime has been playing the role of a conductor, guiding the policies of the Arab regimes to ensure that they remain in line with this doctrine.

Due to its long experience of coexistence with the Zionists, Cairo has allowed itself to act as a guide for the Arabs and remove the obstacles existing on the route to Israel.

It is for this reason that since the first Arab-Israeli compromise talks in Madrid in Aban [21 October-21 November] 1991, the Cairo regime has given itself a central role in Middle East political developments. This role has continued right up to the present, and the Zionist government, pursuing the aim of consolidating its expansionist policies, has benefited hugely from the way Egypt has performed, vis-a-vis the Middle East developments. [passage omitted]

In looking at the present six-plus-two meeting [Damascus Declaration] in Muscat, one must bear in mind the active presence of Egypt in the session. In view of the nature of the majority of the regimes participating in the session, the Muscat event is more like a gathering aimed at normalizing relations with the Zionists than a meeting that seeks the objective of mobilization against the new rulers of Israel.

Of course, the organizers of the session will naturally try to instill an anti-Zionist flavor in their propaganda. However, the reality is something else. The least that one can say with utmost clarity is that any meeting in which Egypt plays a central and determining role is nothing but a Zionist gathering.

Iran: Editorial Views Foreign Policy, Fight Against U.S., Israel

LD1807210496 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 14 Jul 96 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "Foreign Policy and the Criterion for Isolation"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate, the joint American-Zionist propaganda campaign is trying very hard to give the impression that the Islamic Republic system is totally isolated. But is this assertion true?

Answering this question can effectively help officials in charge of formulating our country's foreign policy to adopt correct and principled decisions about how to approach international issues in general, and in particular relations with other countries. Of course a salient point here is what the officials concerned understand from the concept of "isolation." It seems, therefore, that one can find a correct and clear answer to the above question by delineating the precise meaning of the concept of "isolation."

Having a large number of embassies and diplomatic missions in foreign countries can never be a valid criterion for assessing the degree of a given country's presence in the international political arena. This is despite the fact that embassies and diplomatic missions can serve as useful instruments for the fulfillment of every country's peculiar aims and objectives. A good criterion in this respect is the degree of a certain country's active political presence on the international arena.

No country can be called isolated if it proves itself to be capable of exercising an active and dynamic foreign

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

policy and of influencing international political developments, despite perhaps not having a large number of diplomatic missions abroad.

The reality is that despite the many obstacles that the enemies of the Islamic Revolution have placed on its path, the Islamic Republic has, ever since its foundation, been able to enjoy an active presence in the international political arena and to influence global developments.

This special characteristic is indebted to the extraordinary popularity of the founder of the Islamic Republic system, his eminence Imam Khomeyni — may he be admitted to God's paradise — among all the nations of the world, as well as to the steadfastness, resilience, and vigilance of the Iranian nation.

After the demise of the Imam, Iran maintained this characteristic through the resolute will of the esteemed leader of the revolution, his eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, to continue the struggle against America and Zionism.

The above-mentioned factors have so far enabled the Islamic Republic to exercise a significant presence in the international arena and to influence world political developments.

What is a more salient point is that the very same spirit of resilience and steadfastness in the struggle against America and international Zionism, both of which can aptly be described as the cancerous cells of the contemporary world, has caused the ardor of the fight against America and the Zionist regime to spread and grow all around the globe, and to become a value in itself in the political lives of both the nations and governments of various countries.

Today we witness an ever-growing struggle against America and the Zionists around the world. The intensification of efforts by America and Zionism to portray the Islamic Republic of Iran as a lonely and isolated country is precisely due to the reason that they feel threatened and are fully aware that the inception and the subsequent spread of anti-American and anti-Zionist ardor all over the world is rooted in the Islamic revolution.

Considering this crystal clear fact, the answer to our earlier question is that not only is the Islamic Republic of Iran not suffering from isolation, but instead it is on the verge of reaping the fruit of many years of resistance against satanic powers and forcing America and Zionism to adopt a defensive posture. We owe this great blessing to our adherence to our principles, and we must remember that only by continuing this path can we hope to safeguard the honor and integrity of this revolutionary nation and political system.

However, when one reviews the performance record of our foreign policy officials, one comes across some examples of certain modes of operation which unfortunately are not very congruent with these principles. Pinning hope on relations with bogus and rootless governments, such as the regime of Mubarak in Egypt, and disregarding the fact that such regimes are alien to the Muslim nations they illegitimately rule, are some of the examples of these blatant errors.

The status that the Islamic Republic enjoys among the nations of the world, thanks to its leadership and its resilient nation, should not be allowed to be harmed by certain moves which are hardly commensurate with our revolutionary principles and yardsticks.

Those believing that the Islamic Republic of Iran needs relations with dependent and rootless regimes, such as Mubarak's government, are in fact influenced by American and Zionist propaganda. They, moreover, hold the belief that we are isolated and should therefore try to establish ties with such regimes in order to end our state of isolation.

It is possible that these people may in fact have good intentions, but their problem is that they are not fully familiar with the meaning of the term "isolation." Furthermore, they do not seem to realize that having relations with regimes which themselves suffer from isolation vis-a-vis their own nations, would in itself constitute the clearest criteria for isolation.

Iran: 'Secret' Tehran Meeting Discusses Plans To Attack U.S. Targets

TA1907062296 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 19 Jul 96 p 3

["Exclusive" report by Serge Dumont]

[FBIS Translated Text] During their meeting in Paris two and a half weeks ago, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak handed over to French President Jacques Chirac a top secret file. According to information contained in it, representatives of terrorist organizations and Iranian Intelligence held a secret conference in Tehran on 20 June in which they discussed plans for a series of attacks which would be mainly aimed at U.S. targets.

The meeting was attended by representatives of Iranian Intelligence and the top leadership of Hizballah headed by 'Imad Maghniyah, head of Hizballah's security apparatus. Other participants included Muhammad 'Ali, a confidant of Usamah Ben- Ladan, a Saudi millionaire who finances terrorist activities, and Ahmad Salam, a senior operations officer of the Egyptian terror organization al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Hizballah's Iranian branch will hold a congress in Tehran tomorrow, and the list of guests includes all the who's-who in the terrorist world. There will be about 15 delegations of brother organizations, including Hizballah chapters from Lebanon, Senegal, Kashmir, Bahrain, and the Palestinian Authority [PA] areas.

According to information obtained by Western intelligence services, this will not be just another media event. In fact, Hizballah's Iranian chapter is seeking to establish a formal international terrorist organization that will coalesce all active Hizballah chapters in some 15 countries. Tehran provided Hizballah's Iranian branch all the means necessary for the success of its new mission. Hizballah's Iranian chapter pledged to support its "brethren" in Lebanon, giving them a $5 million grant and new models of katyusha launchers.

Intelligence services around the world are worried about Hizballah's activities under Iran's patronage, and have consequently tightened cooperation in a bid to provide a response to the terrorist threats. On 3 June in Riyadh, the CIA, MI6, and the Arab Center for Security Studies and Training (a Saudi organization) opened a training course on field intelligence for 80 Arab intelligence officers. The students came from a dozen Arab countries, including the Gulf emirates, Syria, Egypt, Yemen, Mauritania, and the PA.

Iran: Paper Exposes Iranian Terror Network

TA30060812 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
28 Jun 96 p 3

["Exclusive" report by Serge Dumon, "a Belgian journalist who specializes in exposes on fundamentalist Islamic groups and radical right-wing organizations in Europe"; all personal and department names as transliterated]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Iranian intelligence services have succeeded in setting up a huge, well-organized network of international terrorism. One man, 'Ali Fallahian-Khuzestani, has managed to reorganize Iran's intelligence services and now controls a wide-ranging, deadly network of 20,000 agents who are deployed throughout the world and engage in incitement, sabotage, and murder. The Iranian security services Vevak [preceding word in English] — the all-powerful Intelligence and Security Ministry headed by Fallahian-Khuzestani —have recently suffered from a lack of direction. Prior to the reorganization, Vevak's supervision of Tehran's various security and intelligence mechanisms was weak. In practice, the secret military services and civilian agencies, such as "the bureau of supreme instruction" maintained their autonomy. They competed with each other and occasionally even planned operations against the same target, without any joint coordination. In order to put an end to this state of disorder, 'Ali Fallahian-Khuzestani managed to establish the "supreme council for intelligence affairs," which he runs himself. Several months ago, he completed the reorganization process. According to exclusive information reaching MA'ARIV, this new council, which is divided into twelve departments, handles the activities of approximately 20,000 agents.

The first department is responsible for "internal security." This department, headed by 'Ali Rabi,' receives the lion's share of Iran's national budget for clandestine activities. It guarantees control in the field through numerous local and regional offices. — In conjunction with the "internal security department," there is a "popular intelligence" service, run by 'Ali Shafi,' which is responsible for monitoring bazaars, markets, and mosques. This service attempts, in effect, to monitor every public place where citizens can gather and organize anti-government activities — the third group is the "external security" department, which, according to the assessments of European counterterrorism agencies, is in charge of Iran's clandestine operations abroad and supplies aid and logistical support to agents on operations. This department is run by Mahdi Kamran, the brother of former Defense Minister Mostafa Kamran. His group of underground cells is known as al-Quds, and his agents are deployed in Turkey and Pakistan, as well as in Germany and Switzerland, which are the two largest bases of Iranian intelligence in Europe.

In the German capital city Bonn, the two key representatives of these networks are "diplomats" Jamshid Tafreshi, the security officer at the Iranian Embassy, and First Secretary Morteza Rahmani Movahad. In the late 1980's, the German and French intelligence services received information that Iranian agents had also been planted in Germany in the guise of employees at Iran's national carrier, Iran Air, in Frankfurt, and as correspondents for Iranian television in Bonn. Others are employed at Iran House in Cologne, at the headquarters of the Association of Islamic Students in Europe, and at the Hamburg mosque. Secret conferences are held at these locations and weapons are stashed there.

At the start of the 1980's, Iran's security agencies also used certain hospitals as a cover. At the time, the Iranian regime actually ran several health clinics in Germany. These institutions treated soldiers who were badly wounded in the battles against Saddam Husayn's forces but some of the male nurses were also secret agents. The Iranian intelligence network has another two bases in the Netherlands, but these are of lesser importance. The first one, in the Hague, is run by Mansur Maqsudi. The second, in Amsterdam, is controlled by Kamal Pordeli.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

In 1991-1992, Belgium's counterintelligence services showed great interest in Iranian "students," at some mosques in Brussels and on the university campus, who tried to recruit "volunteers" for shady missions. "The supreme council for intelligence affairs" also controls the "bureau for revolutionary movements." This is an important body, as it arranges the transfer of funds to finance terrorist activities around the world. The head of this bureau is Movahedi Kermani, who distributes money to certain elements in Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], Islamic Jihad, and Hizballah. This bureau also funds the activities of the most violent organization in Algeria, the Armed Islamic Group, which started the civil war three years ago after the election results were canceled. [passage omitted]

Iran: Ayatollah Emami-Kashani Delivers Tehran Friday Prayers

LD1907112796 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran Provincial Network in Persian 0800 GMT 19 Jul 96

[Tehran Friday prayer sermon by Ayatollah Mohammad Emami-Kashani, spokesman of the Guardian Council; at Tehran University Campus — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. [passage omitted]

I would like to devote this part of my remarks to the issue of security at an international level. In our country, this security is maintained by our armed forces, that is to say the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, the army, and the forces in charge of our borders. On the basis of religious principles, the Islamic Republic system is as much concerned about international security as its own internal security. [passage omitted]

Friendship with the followers of divine religions, and even with infidels, is advised in the Koran, in the blessed Momtaheneh chapter. But if someone tries to act like a tyrant and attempts to violate the rights of others and plunder the Islamic ummah and the Islamic system, then it is our duty to stand up to him and defend ourselves.

Today, the Islamic Republic system has passed its test in creating security in the region with flying colours. [crowd chants: God is Great!]

The world of today has grasped this reality. That is to say the world is aware of Islamic Iran's sincerity and honesty. The world knows this. Even the enemies acknowledge this. Today, the Islamic Republic of Iran invites the entire Islamic ummah to get together and unite. We extend our hand of friendship towards you, whoever you are, whether you are Arabs, Turks, or Persians, especially if you are our neighbors. We believe the security of the region and that of the Islamic ummah is our own responsibility.

It is the duty of clerics and religious scholars all over the Islamic world to tell Muslims in various mosques and religious gathering: [passage omitted] Do not rely on the oppressors and criminals, lest you burn in fire both in this world and the life after death. [end Koranic verse] This will be the fire of abjectness, and you can be sure that your future generations will question you as to why you got yourselves trapped in that fire.

All our neighboring countries know the difference between being friends with Iran or with Israel. They know that if they are friends with Iran, they are in fact enjoying friendship with a human being, but befriending Israel is the same as befriending a wolf. If our neighbor was friendly with Iran, it would sleep comfortably. However, if he was friendly with Israel, he would have to have one eye open constantly lest he fell asleep, the wolf would then attack and bite his head off, rip his body to shreds, and eat him. They know this is what Israel is like.

Therefore, the world of Islam, Islamic countries, and Islamic governments must pay attention to the cry of Iran, of the Islamic Republic, which says: We are friends with all of you. Let all of us safeguard the region, let all of us make the region a safe and secure place; let us make the Islamic world a safe place. [passage omitted]

We have shown that we are committed to security. Do not organize meetings and sessions; do not talk about [the Iran-UAE disputed] islands; do not bring this and that issue up. All of this talk pleases the wolves; this talk is tantamount to shooting yourselves in the foot; you are hurting your own honor, your own country, and your own standing — this is what the Islamic Republic is saying.

And it has proved this, it has shown that it is committed to this — all of us, the whole system from top to bottom; from the great leadership of velayat [guardianship of the supreme jurisconsult] to the three [executive, judicial, and legislative] powers. All of the nation, all of the nation's forces have shown that they are committed to righteousness, justice, security, and piety in the world. [crowd chants in support]

Thank you very much, let me finish. I should like to say that the system of the Islamic Republic — which has shown its direction and line and thereby its greatness to the world — has done the same inside the country. Our people, our hezbollahi people — who really know their duties — should trust the system and pay attention to it. Our officials and whoever serves must pay attention to the fact that serving our people is very valuable. And if

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

the people see something untoward from anyone, they should tell him, they should write to him. Sometimes there may be a complaint about someone and they tell me. I say to them: Okay, you have told me, but why do not you write to that person yourself?

Our organizations, our various organs... [pauses] Many of the things that are said are hearsay. This is not right. Sometimes one hears things about some people and then it goes through the grapevine. But this is what I have to say to our people: If you see something untoward, write to those responsible and they are duty bound to respond. [passage omitted]

If our nation and people continue to support the leadership with strength, as they are doing now, and if they remain present on the scene, the enemy cannot harm the country in any way, thanks be to the Lord of the Age [12th Shi'i imam], may God hasten his noble advent. [passage omitted]

Iran: Nateq-Nuri Interviewed on Comments, Parties

NC1807113896 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 9 Jul 96 pp 2-3

[Interview with Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Nateq-Nuri by the editor in chief of ABRAR; place, date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [ABRAR] [Passage omitted] Some of your comments published in various newspapers, including our own, state that having [political] parties is not inconsistent with our Islamic and revolutionary system. Two questions arise from this. One: Do you actually consider the Militant Clergy Association [MCA] to be a party or not?

Two: Since his eminence the imam, may his soul be sanctified, did not declare parties to be defunct, but compared parties with the wick of a lamp, saying they should not be extinguished but lowered slightly to limit activities, do you consider this party, which is under supervision and adheres to God and has the supreme jurisconsult as its pivot, to be necessary or not? What do you consider the pivot of the party to be...[ellipsis as published]

[Nateq-Nuri] As far as the clergy, and, especially, the MCA, is concerned, something that has been repeatedly stated both by great men like Mahdavi-Kani and by myself, the MCA is not a party and this is why it does not act like a party. It is a group formed of clergymen. The list of its duties is topped by the duties that a clergyman has toward society, that is, guiding society, issuing directives to society, and calling on society to be present on the various scenes, particularly on the political scenes of the country and in political decisionmaking as well as in political participation. Since we do not consider politics to be apart from religion, we consider the presence on the political scenes to be a duty.

The MCA's top priority is to guide and direct the people and to call on them to be present on the political scenes, because I believe that not everyone knows about management affairs and can individually deal with political details. One may be a worker, the other an employee, the other a housewife, and the other may have a job problem. Not all of the people can be experts and make expert political decisions.

The MCA or specialized groups carry out the specialized work for society depending on their weight in society and the trust they are given by the people. They direct the people. And the people listen to those they trust more.

The MCA considers its major duty to be guiding and directing the people. Well, political participation is also one of its duties. So it was to work in a more consolidated way that it formed a group (since before the victory of the revolution) and compiled a charter. It existed before the revolution. After the revolution we compiled a charter. The last session at which we decided on the charter was the last Friday in the life of Martyr Beheshti. Other gentlemen, founders of the MCA, also attended this meeting. So the MCA is not a party. It plays the role of a father and of a guide for society but in a collective form so as to yield results.

This is a brief description of the MCA. This is why we do not work as a party. You might ask what this means. When parties operate, they are present —for example—on a political scene like the elections. They have candidates and they campaign for their candidates and, according to the votes that they receive, they go to the Majles either as a minority or a majority. In the Majles too, this group must operate on the basis of the directives issued by the party backing it. The party issues orders. The party says: Do this or do not do that or — for example — vote for this bill or do not vote for it. This is not so with the MCA. For example, in the elections, the MCA holds its meetings. Then it decides which candidates are competent and votes for them — whether they are members of the MCA, clergymen, or not.

The candidate may be a doctor, an engineer, a worker, an employee, a shop owner, a woman, or a man — people discerned to be competent. Since we are a Tehran-based association, we support candidates only for Tehran. Once these candidates are elected, the MCA feels it has completed its task and has carried out what it has been guided to do and that the people too have

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

listened. The MCA then ceases to be present in the Majles as a body to form a lobby or to issue orders to the deputies it has supported. It only walks up to the gate of the Majles, no further; it is the deputies who go on from there on their own. But this is not the way a party operates. [passage omitted]

[ABRAR] Let us turn to the Majles and to the elections. If you allow me, I would like to ask a few questions in relation with this. It is said that the elections were held in an extremely good manner, that they were spectacular, and that the people participated in them. Two reasons are stated for this. One is that the vast presence of the people was unforeseeable; a group known as the Officials of Reconstruction granted the elections more fervor. But more important than all this was, I think, the directives issued by the esteemed leader that made the people realize their canonical and revolutionary duties. These directives clearly delineated the line the people had to follow. And the people who are enamored of the system and the esteemed leader obeyed and participated in the elections and sent their deputies to the Majles.

I would like a brief assessment by Your Excellency on this and on these two aspects of the issue.

[Nateq-Nuri] What you said was a good enough analysis. You are correct. Before the elections — and, if I am not mistaken, before the auspicious month of Ramadan, probably in Qom — I said that the presence of various groups in the elections was necessary and called on all groups, especially groups with values and revolutionary groups that support the system, to participate. In my interviews too I stated that various groups should participate. I was probably the first person to say that the participation of various groups was necessary to make the elections more enthusiastic. Then the Officials of Reconstruction entered the scene. This in and of itself was very good. Some ministers were members of the group. When they issued their first statement, the esteemed leader met with them and prohibited them from including ministers who were members of the group in the campaigns.

So the essence of the existence of groups and factions, including the presence of the Officials of Reconstruction, was very good. And the enthusiasm of the elections increased. I always said there is no meaning behind us, the MCA, participating without rivals. It is like an athlete competing alone and coming in first since there is no one else to compete with him. The enthusiasm had to be maintained. Their presence was necessary.

The Officials came, other groups came, the House of the Worker came, and thus they added to the enthusiasm of the elections. The people's presence too was very good. This was one of the reasons for their presence.

Another factor, actually the first, I believe, was the guidance and encouragement of the esteemed leader. He guided the people and encouraged them and they carried out their duty and entered the scene. They entered the scene as a canonical and national duty. The esteemed leader stated that Majles is the manifestation of the nation's will and that therefore the people should be present on the scene. The major reason for the people's presence on the scene was the esteemed leader's encouragement. The second reason was the existence of rivals in the campaign. These were very effective.

All these things came at a time when the enemy was trying to inculcate that in Iran the people lack the necessary enthusiasm and trust, that they are dissatisfied, and that will not participate in the elections.

They did not foresee more than 10, 12, 13, or 14 million people participating. But suddenly over 24 million participated. And this was a good reply to all the misgivings. It disappointed the enemy and it transformed dismay into hope at home. It was an extremely good development, which I assess positively.

[ABRAR] What you are saying is that the ministers who were warned against participating and the ministers who, according to the directives of the esteemed leader, were not to participate in the elections in favor of a group followed the orders to the full and did not participate, as far as their possibilities and their legal positions allowed them. Do you think the same applied to the second round of the elections?

[Nateq-Nuri] It is better for me not to answer this question and to refer you to the remarks by the esteemed leader when he granted deputies an audience.

[ABRAR] How should I interpret the situation?

[Nateq-Nuri] In the same way the esteemed leader stated in his remarks.

[ABRAR] What I presume from your answer is that "the written word is more accurate than the oral word" [preceding phrase in Arabic]

[Nateq-Nuri] That is up to you. But I say it is better for you to refer to his remarks that day to clarify things.

[ABRAR] The other issue is that after the elections were held with the massive and spectacular participation of the people, the enemies of the revolution and of Islam were dealt a strong blow and the people confirmed with their presence that they obey the system. They renewed their allegiance to the esteemed leader and the committed and alert clerics as well as of the Officials of Reconstruction. [passage omitted]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

During the fourth term Your Excellency's view was that the gentlemen who were members of the board of directors should not be elected heads of the commissions. This was your opinion then. Now some of the members of the board of directors have also been assigned duties in the commissions. First, does this not limit their ability to carry out their major duties? Do you think it advisable for the member of the board of directors to also head a commission?

[Nateq-Nuri] In answer to the first part of your question, I feel we will have no problems with the candidates who have been voted to the Majles. We agree on many issues. There are more points that we agree on than there are minor things on which we disagree. [passage omitted]

As for the commissions, it was my personal view that people who are on the board of directors should not be selected heads of commissions. But in the fourth term of the Majles we saw how unjust this was. If some people on the board of directors are not chosen as heads of commissions the Majles will be harmed. For example, let us refer to Majles Deputy Speaker Rowhani. I tend to most affairs and he tends to others. Considering this and depriving him of a commission like the foreign policy commission he heads is unjust. It is unjust to have a person well-versed in foreign policy and in foreign and domestic issues deprived of this position, because he is the deputy speaker and has a position on the National Security Council. If this rule is to be generally applied it will be unjust. If we say he is exempt then someone else might ask: Why not me? Discrimination may start. We came and altered our view on this, both in the fourth term and in the fifth term.

[ABRAR] I will ask my last question and not tire you. During the fourth term Your Excellency was asked these same questions. Now the fifth term has started, and I think this term of the Majles will be stronger if there is harmony and accord among all the various groups that have sent their candidates to the Majles.

Your Excellency has gained sufficient experience from many years in the Majles as speaker during several terms. We have a Majles, which, according to the imam — may his soul be sanctified — is a gathering of all forces. Sometimes it may be difficult for us to replace the head of the legislative branch.

The executive branch is strong because it has a strong Majles supervising the performance of executive affairs and sees whether it is moving in the correct direction and implementing laws and regulations or not. What if this does not happen and the head of the legislative branch changes — as in other places — after a few years? How do you assess the future if there is a change in the next year and the people or officials want you to give up your position as head of the legislative branch and be elected as head of the executive branch or the main man second after the supreme jurisconsult?

[Nateq-Nuri] Two or three issues have been stated. They should be separated. The first important point is that the Majles is important and is at the head of affairs and should carry out its duties well. This is correct. But I do not accept that the management of the Majles is wrapped up in one person. In our system there is no such thing. I think we should say there is nothing, but the supreme jurisconsult. Thank God, we have many forces in the country. Something may happen — things happen to everyone — and I, as the Majles speaker, may face a situation and be unable to head the Majles. This does not mean there is no one to replace me. The gentlemen who are in the Majles now — our deputy speaker and others, for example — are competent people. Rowhani was the deputy speaker during the past four-year term when I was speaker. He was a powerful deputy speaker and managed the Majles very well. There are many such forces. Therefore, we cannot sum up affairs in one person.

The executive issue too is an extremely important one. If the best laws are approved in the Majles but are not implemented, and if no able management, like Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who is now head of the executive branch, exists to put things in order, the country will fall apart. Everything the country has is in the hands of the government, which executes laws.

We are legislators. We approve laws. But what is important is the implementation of laws, which are either compiled by the supreme jurisconsult or the Majles to be implemented by the government. That is important too and, as you stated, the president is the second highest-ranking official in the country.

In answer to your reference to me — a third issue and one that should be separated from the other two — is that, as I have repeatedly said in answer to questions, I am not after anything. That is, I did not pursue election as Majles speaker either and if I had not been elected speaker, but had been only a deputy, I would still feel the same way. I started my political career within the framework of carrying out my "duties." When I started my struggle in 1962, things were not easy. We struggled until the revolution won. [passage omitted]

Now too I am not after anything; I am not the type of person to go after anything. But I have always shown that when duty calls I will respond. If one day the nation considers it expedient to call on me to assume this position or a lower or higher position, I will never shun

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

the responsibility that will be placed on my shoulders; I will do my best.

[ABRAR] Thank you for sparing us some of your valuable time. People are asking if Ayatollah Emami-Kashani has accepted the secretary general's position in the MCA. Please clarify this point to end the rumors. This is my last question. Again I thank you for your time.

[Nateq-Nuri] You know that for a long time — about a year — Mahdavi-Kani was telling me he did not want to act as secretary general; he resigned from his position. We did not accept this initially but finally we did and I acted as secretary general for a while. During these elections the MCA had to decide, and at a meeting we said the MCA could not be without a secretary general because documents must be signed and contacts must be made. It has correspondence that should be moved and has executive responsibilities on its shoulders. We asked Mahdavi-Kani to accept the position and he rejected, saying he was unable to accept. Finally the central council decided to appoint Emami-Kashani.

[ABRAR] Thank you very much.

Iran: Paper Views Election, Crime

NC1807100596 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 3 Jul 96 p 2

[Letter by Jalil Kheyrzadeh: "Some Remarks to Fifth Majles Deputies"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Passage omitted] During canvassing all the candidates raised the slogan of social justice. Now that, praise be to God, the elections are over and the fifth Majles has commenced its deliberations, the people's deputies should create the conditions that might help implement social justice. Of course they know that this can only be done through the approval of the necessary legislation or the completion of existing laws.

The people have problems with some laws and expect the deputies of the fifth Majles to carry out their legal and shari'i [according to Islamic law] obligations by amending them accordingly so that the way is paved for fulfilling the promises of social justice, which was on top of their election agenda.

In our society lack of justice or inadequate justice is rampant and stems from the absence of proper laws or incomplete or bad laws. In this article I will attempt to explain in simple language the problems requiring decisionmaking.

1. The Issue of Elections

During the fifth Majles elections issues emerged that indicated that electoral laws do not respond fully to the wishes of the people. The dazzling increase in candidates and the short time given by the laws [to decide upon the competence of the candidates] restricted the decisionmaking authorities, that is, the esteemed Guardians Council, in vetting candidates precisely and attending to the objections intensively; as a result the legitimate rights of some candidates were not vindicated.

Some candidates had complaints regarding the manner of the selection and the composition of the executive committees. It transpired that the governors are the main factors in this selection. They invite 30 dedicated local individuals and select some of them for the executive committee—the arbiters of the fate of the candidates. Hence the Majles should amend the electoral laws, reappraise the qualities of the dedicated local officials, and reassess the method of inviting them and their selection so that the elections will not be monopolistic or in favor of a particular faction. [passage omitted]

2. The Issue of Tehran Elections

As for the elections in Tehran, numerous problems have cropped up for the Interior Ministry, for the people, and for the executive and supervisory committees due to the large number of candidates who contest the elections from Tehran. The result is that people who are not affiliated with any particular group or faction do not have the opportunity to study the names of all the candidates and make the correct choice. [passage omitted]

It is suggested that if the Majles approves, Tehran should be divided into five constituencies for the elections: North, East, South, West, and Center (due to the dense population) and six candidates should be elected from each constituency so that the people will have to try to make the correct choice and not be forced to choose from 400 candidates at once. The situation now seems illogical, as every individual in a constituency, for example, Qom, has the right to put down the names of two candidates, while a resident of Tehran must write down the names of 30 candidates [on the ballot slip].

This time we had 400 candidates in Greater Tehran; this number will increase with the increase in population in subsequent elections. So each candidate should be allowed to contest the elections in one of the five constituencies and his friends or acquaintances will vote for him in that constituency (without restrictions according to where they work or live). This would not only relieve the people of writing down 30 names, it would also contribute to easier reading and swifter counting of votes.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

3. The Increasing Incidence of Crime in Society

One problem to surface in our society in recent years is the increase in crime, burglary, car theft, smuggling, addiction, corruption, embezzlement, burglary-cum-harassment, forgery, and major fraud. This is not in keeping with the values of an Islamic country.

Recently the number of law enforcement centers and judicial bodies has multiplied. If a decent member of society were to visit one of these offices one morning, he would be amazed at the masses of the accused, the suspects, the throng of people in these departments and would hang his head in shame at this sight.

An Islamic country that is the cradle of an Islamic government and is considered an Islamic utopia should not have so many crimes or violations.

The Majles should ask the researchers and sociologists through the Majles research centers to investigate the causes of this decline in social ethics and pinpoint the motivation for all these crimes, misdemeanors, and transgressions against the rights of others.

Why all this crime? Are the various departments in the country not performing their duties correctly? Or has discipline been replaced by discrimination and contacts? Which of the laws that have been implemented as a deterrent have resulted in an increase in crime? These should be identified and the Majles should devise ways to eliminate them by approving laws that create a healthy society. [passage omitted]

Iran: Economic Control, Currency Rate Viewed

96LA0274C Tehran SALAM in Persian 14 Apr 96 pp 5, 4

[FBIS Translated Text] [Boxed item] **Note—What follows is the result of research by a respected reader, the contents of which the readers can evaluate and judge. Two points should be mentioned. First is that the researcher only refers to the viewpoints of the supporters and opponents of the modification policy in 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993] regarding the creation of a single foreign currency rate. As you know, that year was the height of the success of the modification policy. For this reason, the policy of the creation of a single foreign currency rate was implemented in 1372 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993]. Attention to the viewpoints of the supporters in that year with what occurred in 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] and 1374 [21 March 1995-20 March 1996], especially the endorsement of those supporters for the implementation of the new foreign currency policies this year, is very instructive. The second point should be viewed in the decisive opposition of the opponents of the modification policy, while the supporters were not decisive and of the same opinion in their support. These days, by raising slogans such as the "modification of the modification policy" and "growth and development alongside social justice," they have been running away from the responsibility regarding the consequences of the implementation of the modification policy in recent years and collecting votes.**

Studies of this sort can be useful to an understanding of the viewpoints of the political factors regarding the problems in the society and clarifying the political atmosphere. This newspaper announces its readiness to publish such research and would like to thank the revered researcher for his research on this issue and his trust in the newspaper. [end boxed item]

Introduction

Considering the political and social conditions that govern the country at the start of the Majles elections and the implementation for several years of the economic and social development plans known as the economic modification policy for the creation of a single foreign currency rate, which have been discussed as steps toward the implementation of the modification policy, the following is the report of a comparative study evaluating the viewpoints of the supporters and opponents of this program. The researcher has tried, considering the existing political and social sensitivity in the country, to present the hidden and open effects of the economic modification policy without any commentary in order to inform the people.

To start the discussion, certain concepts used in this study should be defined for the readers.

1. The economic modification policy. "Economic modification" is a term that has been offered in recent years by some of the officials and legislators and can be defined as follows. In the economic modification policy, the emphasis is on the mechanism of the market, allocation of resources, and the revival of the system of profit. In order for a "market economy" to act properly, an environment of competition must be created in the economy. In this sense, the economic modification policy is, in fact, the same as the market economy, free economy, or capitalist system. The mechanism of the market itself regulates the economic relations and has no need for government intervention. Rather, government intervention in economic affairs is destructive. The characteristics in such an economy, in accordance with what is common and the definitions of international monetary and financial organizations, are:

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

—a free foreign currency rate, in other words, creation of a single foreign currency;
—decrease in the role of government, merely as a provider of grounds to create security for economic activities;
—elimination of restrictions on foreign trade through the open export of foreign goods;
—open foreign investments;
—privatization of the economy;
—elimination of subsidies on production, distribution, and consumption;
—acceptance of the principle of competition in the economic arena (domestic-foreign);
—the absolute rule of the law of supply and demand.

2. The plan for the creation of a single foreign currency rate:

The economic modification policy emphasizes the creation of a single foreign currency rate and considers it as one of the first steps and an essential and primary tool of that policy.

3. The supporters and opponents of the economic modification policy:

In this study, the supporters and opponents have been categorized in two spectra:

A. Supporters: comprised of the government (the Executive Branch, the Jame'eh-ye Ruhaniyyat-e Mobarez [Militant Clergy Association], whose views are announced or publicized in RESALAT newspaper.

B. Opponents: comprised of the Majma'-e Ruhaniyyun-e Mobarez [Militant Clerics Society] and the Mojahedin Organization of the Islamic Revolution, whose major views are announced and publicized in [name illegible] newspaper.

It is necessary to explain that among the major reasons for the attention of the supporters and opponents of the economic modification policy in this study have briefly been the following.

For supporters:

—being freed from the critical economic conditions of the country after the war;
—efforts to achieve development and progress in economic and social dimensions on the basis of a schedule and in the long term;
—the success of the model of a market economy in international economy and the guidance of international economic institutions, such as the International Monetary Fund [IMF] and the World Bank;
—the failure of the model of economies based on government intervention and supervision.

And for the opponents:

—inability with the political and cultural conditions of the society and its endangering the process of the values and goals of the revolution;
—imposed opinions of the international institutions that are under the influence of the capitalist and imperialist assemblies, whose opinions in assisting the economies of the Third World countries have been the main cause of all political and economic problems and backwardness.

The political, economic, and cultural consequences of the policies that will be followed by unconditional dependence on capitalism and the danger of deviating from the policies and wishes of the revolutionary people of Iran.

Research method:

The research method is comparative and tries to show the viewpoints of the opponents and supporters of the economic modification policy, considering what they have announced in news and information sources, and the intensity of the views of each group regarding this policy.

In a case study, the basis of the method of content analysis, which is an accepted method in social sciences in analyzing the various opinions and viewpoints regarding one issue, the statements and positions of the supporters and opponents have been collected and extracted from the headlines, economic and political editorials, statements, and internal bulletins in the following manner. During 1371, an equal number of statements, a total of 120 sentences (without mentioning the audience), has been collected so that, considering the time of the comments, in four quarters, from each group 15 sentences have been stated separately and distinctly in charts called "Evaluative Analysis of the Views," which include 60 (15 X 4) single sentences showing the viewpoints over four quarters. For better objectivity and showing the intensity of the opinions of the groups in one spectrum of six parts, figures have been given a number of +3 to -3 for all the viewpoints.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Evaluative Analysis of the Views of the Supporters of the Economic Modification Policy, Creation of a Single Foreign Currency Rate, First Quarter of 1371

Item	Issue Judged	General Statement	Number	Verbal Component	Number	Multiplied Total
1	Creation of a single foreign currency rate	gradually causing people's dependence on imported goods	3	is	3	9
2	"	causing essential support for domestic products	3	is	3	9
3	"	in the interest of the agricultural sector and Iranian farmers	3	is	3	9
4	"	the cause of a decrease of dependence of the agricultural sector on foreign currency, compared to other sectors of the national economy	3	is	3	9
5	"	cause purchases of agricultural utilities in rials (foreign currency conservation)	3	will	2	6
6	"	result in the elimination of the problems of farmers in the use of agricultural machinery	3	will	2	6
7	"	prevent uncontrolled use of agricultural utilities	3	will	2	6
8	"	result in conservation for all sectors of the national economy	3	will	2	6
9	"	make domestic production the center of attention and support in the industrial and agricultural sectors	3	will	2	6
10	"	automatically anti-inflationary	-3	is	3	-9
11	"	result in decisions in the interest of the vulnerable stratum	3	will	2	6
12	"	the only way to save the Iranian economy	3	is	3	9
13	"	the cause of the decrease in foreign currency in the market (unnecessary uses)	3	is	3	9
14	"	the cause of the stopping of speculation in foreign currency	3	is	3	9
15	"	an important obstacle to the future activities of industrial townships	-3	is	3	-9
					81	
			81/3 x 5 = 1.8			

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Evaluative Analysis of the Views of the Supporters of the Economic Modification Policy, Creation of a Single Foreign Currency Rate, Second Quarter of 1371

Item	Issue Judged	General Statement	Number	Verbal Component	Number	Multiplied Total
1	Creation of a single foreign currency rate	decrease pressure by various domestic organizations to receive foreign currency	3	will	2	6
2	"	eliminate international obstacles to receiving loans	3	will	2	6
3	"	caused the elimination of the inflationary effects of the 1372 budget	3	has	3	9
4	"	be the calculated control factor in the cash flow in the society	3	will	2	6
5	"	an essential step for the health of the economy in the society	3	is	3	9
6	"	cause an end to economic corruption due to multiple foreign currency rates	3	will	2	6
7	"	be the cause of the expenditures resulting from it being spent on providing social services, insurance, and other needs of the society	3	will	3	9
8	"	be the cause of the advancement of the national economy	3	will	3	9
9	"	play an essential role in improving the process of industrial and mining affairs of the country	3	will	2	6
10	"	caused the industry and related sectors to face the problem of cash flow	-3	has	3	-9
11	"	a very effective leverage for preventing the uncontrolled import of goods	3	is	3	9
12	"	a very important lever to encourage exports of national products	3	will be	2	6
13	"	the actual and vital need of the national economy	3	is	2	6
14	"	result in expediting the process of the affairs related to the Customs of the country	3	will	2	6
15	"	result in some organizations paying attention to their projects, their implementation, and the elimination of the needs of the domestic industries	3	will	3	9

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Item	Issue Judged	General Statement	Number	Verbal Component	Number	Multiplied Total
					96	
			96/3 x 15 = +2.13			

Evaluative Analysis of the Views of the Supporters of the Economic Modification Policy, Creation of a Single Foreign Currency Rate, Third Quarter of 1371

Item	Issue Judged	General Statement	Number	Verbal Component	Number	Multiplied Total
1	Creation of a single foreign currency rate	cause the creation of balance in the government payments	3	will	3	9
2	"	cause the thriving of production, domestic products	3	will	3	9
3	"	cause the increase in the value of the national currency	3	will	2	6
4	"	cause the increase in the price of drugs and health services	3	will	2	-6
5	"	cause the active involvement of the banking system in the foreign currency market	3	will	2	6
6	"	in practice provide the grounds for more stability of the foreign currency rate by the pre-sale of foreign currency for special uses	3	will	2	6
7	"	cause the creation of opportunity for everyone to procure foreign currency needs at the daily foreign currency rate	3	will	3	9
8	"	eliminate the negative effects of inflationary expectations on the foreign currency rate	2	may	3	6
9	"	cause the entry into the market of all collected foreign currency by the government	3	will	3	9
10	"	modify demand for foreign currency (government and nongovernment uses) to less than the volume of foreign currency in circulation	3	will	2	6
11	"	eliminate unrealistic rates and speculation in economic operations	3	will	2	6
12	"	provide the possibility for traditional foreign currency needs of the private sector	3	will	3	9

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Item	Issue Judged	General Statement	Number	Verbal Component	Number	Multiplied Total
13	"	help bring about logical decisions by the users of foreign currency	3	will	2	6
14	"	help in decisions regarding appropriate investments	3	will	2	6
15	"	help regulate relations with such international organizations and institutions as the World Bank and the IMF	3	will	2	6
					93	
			93/3 x 15 = +2.06			

Evaluative Analysis of the Views of the Supporters of the Economic Modification Policy, Creation of a Single Foreign Currency Rate, Fourth Quarter of 1371

Item	Issue Judged	General Statement	Number	Verbal Component	Number	Multiplied Total
1	Creation of a single foreign currency rate	cause the growth of domestic production	3	will	2	6
2	"	cause more feasible production of goods and services than imports	3	will	2	6
3	"	on the whole, in the interest of the industries sector and domestic production	3	is	3	9
4	"	cause less consumption of foreign currency by various economic sectors	3	will	2	6
5	"	cause a decrease in imports	3	will	2	6
6	"	expedite the growth of investments in the production sector	3	will	2	6
7	"	cause the decrease in the period of down time of national industries	3	will	2	6
8	"	negative effects on the prices of goods and energy needed by the people	-3	does not have	-3	+9
9	"	cause a decrease in the use of foreign currency	3	will	3	9
10	"	cause a decrease in the waste and excessive use of foreign currency	3	will	3	9
11	"	be discussed gradually, without inflicting a shock on the national economy	3	will	3	9

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Item	Issue Judged	General Statement	Number	Verbal Component	Number	Multiplied Total
12	"	be discussed as a solution to reform the national monetary system and structure	3	will	3	9
13	"	probably cause unemployment and inflation	-3	will	2	-6
14	"	discussed as the government's achievement in connection with the implementation of the modification policy in its main place, that is, policy making	3	is	3	9
15	"	cause the deposit of revenues resulting from the sale of foreign currency by the government and their more equitable distribution through the system of the mechanism of subsidies	3	will	3	9
					102	
			102/3 x 15 = 2.27			

Evaluative Analysis of the Views of the Opponents of the Economic Modification Policy, Creation of a Single Foreign Currency Rate, First Quarter of 1371

Item	Issue Judged	General Statement	Number	Verbal Component	Number	Multiplied Total
1	Creation of a single foreign currency rate	taken away the monetary mechanisms and tools for the control of the cash flow from the government	-3	has	3	-9
2	"	decreased the value of the national currency daily, despite the opinion of the government, instead of promoting it	-3	has	3	-9
3	"	changed the direction of the purchases toward more imports in the form of usance	-3	has	3	-9
4	"	caused a change in the direction of purchases without attention to needs	-3	has	3	-9
5	"	caused the elimination of the budget deficit	3	has not	3	-9
6	"	resulted in cash flow in the society in the interest of the government	3	has not	-3	-9
7	"	created a problem for the foreign currency and monetary actions of the government	-3	has	3	-9

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Item	Issue Judged	General Statement	Number	Verbal Component	Number	Multiplied Total
8	"	caused cynicism among the people regarding the value of the national currency	-3	has	3	-9
9	"	maintained balanced and logical stability in the foreign currency rate	+3	has not	-3	-9
10	"	revealed the contradictions between the words and the actions of the economic officials	-3	has	-3	-9
11	"	caused a sort of chaos and confusion in the market	-3	has	3	-9
12	"	made large investments (resulting from plundering) of capitalists the driving force of the foreign currency market	-3	has	3	-9
13	"	revealed the untruthfulness of the officials with the people and their public deception	-3	has	3	-9
14	"	provided the grounds for misuse in the foreign currency market by speculators and opportunistic capitalists, given the bad work of the officials	-3	has	3	-9
15	"	resulted in resorting to the weapon of the conspiracy of global imperialists and capitalists to justify the mistakes of the officials	3	has	3	-9
				-135		
			-135/3 x 5 = -3			

Evaluative Analysis of the Views of the Opponents of the Economic Modification Policy, Creation of a Single Foreign Currency Rate, Second Quarter of 1371

Item	Issue Judged	General Statement	Number	Verbal Component	Number	Multiplied Total
1	Creation of a single foreign currency rate	resulted in better allocation of resources on the basis of actual prices	3	has not	-3	-9
2	"	resulted in lack of profit and losses in the production centers due to improper management by officials	-3	has	3	-9

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Item	Issue Judged	General Statement	Number	Verbal Component	Number	Multiplied Total
3	"	achieved what the officials wanted, which was to allocate competitive foreign currency to industries and reform and improve the allocation of resources, the goal of which was to bring the free market foreign currency rates closer to the competitive rate	3	has not	-3	-9
4	"	hasty, under the present conditions and due to lack of coherence in the economic policies	-3	is	3	9
5	"	caused people's apprehension regarding the national currency	3	has	3	-9
6	"	resulted in incompatibility of conditions and economic policies, for it should not have been implemented immediately after the war	-3	has	3	-9
7	"	caused the high price of goods and services needed by the people	-3	has	3	-9
8	"	caused the people to go toward false high-income service jobs	-3	has	3	-9
9	"	clarified the necessity of this action for the people realistically	3	has not	-3	-9
10	"	created ambiguity in the concept of social justice and its place, at least under the present conditions	-3	has	3	-9
11	"	unfortunately deceived the people with statistical books and charts	-3	has	3	-9
12	"	been explained clearly among the supporters as well	3	has not	-3	-9
13	"	created recession in the arena of cultural activities, under the present conditions	-3	has	3	-9
14	"	the economic officials, who are responsible for the chaotic financial situation of the country	-3	are	3	-9
15	"	kept a balance in the price of the U.S. dollar between 100 and 145 tumans 3in practice, as it should have	3	has not	-3	-9
					-135	
			-135/3 x 15 = -3			

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Evaluative Analysis of the Views of the Opponents of the Economic Modification Policy, Creation of a Single Foreign Currency Rate, Third Quarter of 1371

Item	Issue Judged	General Statement	Number	Verbal Component	Number	Multiplied Total
1	Creation of a single foreign currency rate	revealed the conflicts and contradictions in the statements of officials in regards to foreign currency	-3	has	3	-9
2	"	removed the tools of control from the hands of the government	-3	has	3	-9
3	"	resulted in the increase in domestic production, the decrease in inflation, and even in the export of goods	-3	has not	-3	-9 [numbers as published]
4	"	created skepticism regarding the implementation of the economic modification policy	-3	has	3	-9
5	"	the capital toward the service and speculation sector, under the present conditions	-3	has taken	3	-9
6	"	practically clarified the situation of the price of foreign currency based on supply and demand, as it should have	+3	has not	-3	-9
7	"	caused the Central Bank, in practice, to follow the selected policies of the operators of the open foreign currency market, due to lack of proper and realistic understanding	-3	has	3	-9
8	"	government officials [have not] made the people aware of the realities of the implemented policies	+3	have not	-3	-9
9	"	been based on theoretical economic analyses, without taking the realities into consideration	-3	has	3	-9
10	"	been in practice limited to increase in the demand for rials vis-a-vis the limited supply	-3	has	3	-9
11	"	in practice caused the neutralization of the intended goals and increased inflation	-3	has	3	-9
12	"	given the present condition of the domestic foreign currency market and world policies, in a fog of ambiguity	-3	is	3	-9

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Item	Issue Judged	General Statement	Number	Verbal Component	Number	Multiplied Total
13	"	accompanied by the wrong policy of expansion of imports	-3	is	3	-9
14	"	a shortcoming that, with the structure of the administrative and executive system of the country, has not displayed much affect in reducing the expenditures and in better allocation of resources	-3	is	3	-9
15	"	in practice, again, multiple rates of foreign currency [are] seen	-3	are	3	-9
					-135	
			-135/3 x 15 + -3			

Evaluative Analysis of the Views of the Opponents of the Economic Modification Policy, Creation of a Single Foreign Currency Rate, Fourth Quarter of 1371

Item	Issue Judged	General Statement	Number	Verbal Component	Number	Multiplied Total
1	Creation of a single foreign currency rate	caused the intended increase in the tax revenues	+3	has not	-3	-9
2	"	reduced the budget deficit in providing the revenues, as it should have	3	has not	-3	-9
3	"	among the wrong economic policies of the government	-3	has been	3	-9
4	"	caused the increase in the national and per capita income	+3	has not	-3	-9
5	"	created jobs for the people	3	has not	-3	-9
6	"	decreased and controlled inflation	3	has not	3	-9
7	"	prevented the increase in the price of government goods and services	3	has not	-3	-9
8	"	resulted in the regulation of the market and offering controlled and managed rates	3	has not	-3	-9
9	"	caused the decrease in the control of government over the foreign currency market	-3	has	3	-9

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

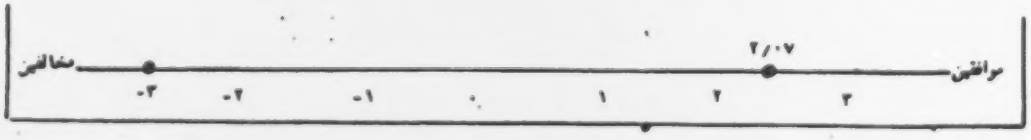
Item	Issue Judged	General Statement	Number	Verbal Component	Number	Multiplied Total
10	"	resulted in investments in various economic sectors on the basis of proper economic decisions based on cultural and political values	3	has not	-3	-9
11	"	become a great economic and political problem for Iran	-3	has	3	-9
12	"	dictated by the World Bank and the IMF	-3	has been	-3	-9 [numbers as published]
13	"	resulted in disregard for the policies in support of the downtrodden stratum	-3	has	3	-9
14	"	caused any positive change in the interest of the government treasury from the composition of revenues	3	has not	-3	-9
15	"	eliminated the mechanism to control the increase in the rate of foreign currency by the government	-3	has	3	[-9]
					-135	
			-135/3 x 15 = -3			

In conclusion, several points should be made.

The grading has been based on the following formula:

1. total number in every chart;
2. number of single sentences in every chart times the number of some chosen by the researcher;
3. the numbers and averages are specified in the following chart along a six-part spectrum.

	First Quarter	Second Quarter	Third Quarter	Fourth Quarter	Average
Supporters	81	96	93	102	
	1.80	2.13	2.06	2.27	2.07
Opponents	-135	-135	-135	-135	
	-3	-3	-3	-3	-3



[The line graph above indicates supporters on the far left and opponents on the far right with the numbers -3, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3 from left to right. The graph also shows a dot above the -3 spot and the 2.07 spot on the line.]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

It was expected that they would show decisive support for their policies, but the research does not come to such a conclusion.

In the opinion of the researcher, the statements and sentences, especially by the supporters and defenders of the modification policy, are not a model for the economic modification policy but can be mostly an interpretation of the subject.

The terminology in planning and policy making must be clearly explained, but it is evident that supporters have used words such as probably, possibly, and will be as the basis for their statements. On the other hand, the opponents, with full and decisive intensity of opinion, have criticized the policies and rejected them.

Iran: SALAM Demands Information on Fate of Iranian Hostages

NC1707181496 Tehran SALAM in Persian 4 Jul 96 p 12

[Commentary by M. Veysi: "The Iranian Hostages Are in Bondage: Let Us Not Forget Them"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Fourteen years ago today, four Iranians were taken hostage in Beirut. But, there is still no information on their fate.

Seyyed Mohsen Musavi, charge d'affaires of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Beirut, together with diplomats Ahmad Motavaselian and Taqi Rastgar-Moqaddam, and IRNA photographer Kazem Akhavan were taken hostage in northern Beirut by pro-Israeli phalangists on 14 Tir 1371 [4 July 1982] while they were in an Iranian Embassy car in Beirut.

The phalangists' leader at that time was Ilyas Hubayqah, who is now a member of the Lebanese cabinet. The hostage-taking operation was carried out by his forces under the command of Samir Ja'ja,' another leader of the pro-Israeli group. Samir Ja'ja' has now been sentenced to life imprisonment on various criminal charges. However, Ilyas Hubayqah, the then commander of the "Lebanese forces" is now a member of Rafiq al-Hariri's cabinet. Nevertheless, despite several attempts and trips by members of the families of these dear ones to Lebanon and their meetings with Lebanese officials, no one—neither the Lebanese officials, nor Samir Ja'ja,' nor... [ellipsis as published]—have provided any clear information on the fate of these hostages. And the Iranian Foreign Ministry officials too have been unable to solve this problem and to end the 14 years of anticipation by the families of the hostages.

The four Iranians who were taken hostage were the first victims of the so-called hostage-taking crisis in Lebanon's civil war. Dozens of others were taken hostage after them. But even though the Western hostages were freed, with the help and efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and have returned to their families, no one has seriously assisted the Islamic Republic of Iran in the issue of the Iranian hostages; and our country's diplomats did not receive sufficient guarantees for the release of the Iranian hostages when the Western hostages were freed in Lebanon.

Undoubtedly, the Islamic Republic of Iran never approved of the "hostage-taking crisis" in Lebanon. It only used its influence and its popularity among the Lebanese groups to assist in the release of the Western hostages. But couldn't our country's diplomats have demanded Western countries inflict pressures on Ja'ja's group and even on the Zionist regime to clarify the fate of the Iranian hostages when they assisted them in the release of the Western hostages? Even if the Western countries did not have the ability to influence the phalangists and the Zionist regime—or they did not want to help us in this—aren't Ilyas Hubayqah and Samir Ja'ja,' who were heads of the Phalangist group of "Lebanese forces," still alive?

Ja'ja,' who is a Maronite Christian, emerged in Lebanon's political scene in 1975 with the commencement of the civil war, and he very soon became known as an important but extremist political figure following a series of violent acts and terrorism against his opponents.

Attacks on Muslim-inhabited areas throughout Lebanon and the perpetration of numerous killings, such as the assassination of Toni Franjiyah, son of Sulayman Franjiyah who was the Lebanese president in 1976; the assassination of Dani Sham'un, leader of Lebanon's Liberal Party; the assassination of former president Rene Mu'awwad; the assassination of Prime Minister Rashid Karami; and the assassination of Khalil Kan'an, commander of an army division, and so on are only a few examples of the crimes perpetrated by Ja'ja' and his terrorist band.

Ja'ja' alleges that the four Iranian hostages were killed under the past command of the "Lebanese forces," that is Ilyas Hubayqah and that he does not have any details on how they were killed. Definitely this allegation by Ja'ja' is unacceptable, because there is no doubt in the fact that when the Iranian hostages were taken in 1982, Ja'ja' was one of the major leaders and influential decision- makers of the Phalangist paramilitary forces. Also, the four Iranians were taken hostage when Ja'ja' and Hubayqah were operating as a unit. In view of this, it is difficult to accept his allegations that he has no information of the fate of the Iranian hostages.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Today, the families of the Iranian hostages who do not have any information on the whereabouts of their dear one are requesting the assistance of the Lebanese Government, which gained its independence because of the resistance by Muslim combatants vis-a-vis the attacks and plots by the Zionist regime and its domestic hirelings. If in the past the Lebanese Government was unable to answer their just demands, today it is strong enough to impose its rule; and the hostage takers are alive and present.

Undoubtedly, the presence of Ilyas Hubayqah on Lebanon's current political scene as a member of Rafiq al-Hariri's cabinet and the arrest and trial of Ja'ja' have created the necessary conditions to determine the fate of the Iranian hostages. And it is the Lebanese Government that should display the necessary good will in solving this problem.

The Foreign Ministry too should complete its past efforts in relation with this and should continue to follow-up the issue of the whereabouts of the Iranian hostages. It should even insist that Ilyas Hubayqah be taken to court, and it should also increase its contacts with the executive and judicial authorities in Lebanon in relation to this issue.

Undoubtedly, if the mass media lacks the necessary propaganda strength to follow-up the issue of the Iranian hostages in Lebanon, as the West's mass media did, this does not mean that the mass media and the people in Iran are indifferent toward the fate of the Iranian hostages. It is hoped that the Iranian public will soon receive clear information on the fate of the four Iranian hostages.

Iran: Paper Details Provincial Development Projects

NC1807121696 Mashhad KHORASAN in Persian 3 Jul 96 pp 1, 11

[Economic commentary: "From Sarakhs to Bojnurd and Esfarayen"]

[FBIS Translated Text] One of the basic and key considerations of the Islamic systems is the implementation of the infrastructural projects in all important and strategic fields to the extent that as one of the prominent economic experts of the country stated, such a continuing trend would boost the daily increasing strength of national security.

Facts and figures indicate that since 1368 [year beginning 21 March 1989] so far the total number of national projects "from which the value of production returns to the country when they become operational" has increased five-fold.

It was possible that no attention would be paid to this field and as with the former regime all the national income or at least a large part of it would have been allocated to boosting consumption or for the purchase of goods. There would be a false sense of comfort for the people and after a decade or two when the oil exports would reach a trickle, political dependence would naturally follow for the Islamic Revolution.

This economic danger manifested itself in the imposed [Iran-Iraq] war and according to the great leader, the main reason for the acceptance of the resolution [598] was the presentation of a list of the national income and expenditure to his eminence, the Imam (may God be pleased with him) by one of the erstwhile economic officials, who reasoned that due to the country's economic problems we could not continue the war. This resulted in resolving the country's economic problems and infrastructural projects were allocated top priority in the government's agenda.

In any case, governments are always faced with two options: Either they have to choose the path of allocating their foreign exchange and financial resources for the people's current needs and for the importing of various agricultural and industrial products or they should invest appropriately in infrastructural projects in order to ensure a reasonable level of comfort and contentment for the benefit of the country's construction.

It is natural that the developed and progressive countries of the world have adopted the second path and the Third World countries have chosen the first one and are therefore still wallowing in the quagmire of economic problems.

In any case, the people and officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran have chosen the first option and it is for this reason that after the end of the imposed [Iran-Iraq] war, Iran was transformed into a workshop for construction.

Our dear readers are well aware that construction to the extent that it helps to eradicate the poverty and deprivation inherited from the former regime is a difficult long-term task. This entails inflation, the building of financial and foreign exchange resources and miscellaneous other problems, which has to continue despite the presence of the sworn enemies of the Islamic Revolution who are seeking to oppose our becoming a favorable model for the world's Muslims.

The point that we wish to stress the most here is that the government has allocated special attention to the Khorasan province during the first Five Year Plan, that is 1368-72 [year beginning 21 March 1989 to year beginning 21 March 1993] especially in its last

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

two years. Official statistics indicate that the level of national investment in Khorasan in the past few years has increased nine-fold and this kind of special attention is very important and destiny- making.

In other words, the government's special attention to Khorasan Province is due to various reasons which have resulted in the establishment of 20 important industrial projects in Khorasan. [Footnote: These projects include factories for the manufacture of heavy machine components, tires, heavy electric motors, light bulbs, bicycles, production of alumina from bauxite, iron ore, coal, textiles, and steel. (These projects are in addition to the previously inaugurated petrochemical complex, foundry, and other projects mentioned).]

The investment in these projects in the first Five-Year Plan alone was over 670 billion rials, which is approximately $500 million. The magnitude of this investment will appear when the mother industries are fully operational, as this will bring about a major upheaval in the volume of production in Khorasan Province, as well as with the employment that it will generate. Nearly 30,000 people will have an opportunity to be employed with the 60,000 new job opportunities [figures as published] that will be added to the industrial sector. This will also result in the savings of nearly 1 billion dollars in foreign exchange annually.

This is in addition to the minor investments of less than 1 billion tumans, which are being carried out at the provincial level for the development of the towns and villages. The allocation of 39 billion tumans in 1373 [year beginning 21 March 1994] and 58 billion tumans in 1374 in national projects in Khorasan Province exceeds the cumulative development credit at the national and provincial levels that occurred in 1368-72 (which was 87 billion tumans). This indicates that the government's attention to the progress of national projects has increased in recent years.

The establishment of the free trade zone in Sarakhs, the construction of the Mashhad-Sarakhs-Tajan railroad, the inauguration of important projects such as the Qa'en cement factory, the Samen serum factory, the Lent vehicle plant and so on indicate the special attention being given to Khorasan Province, which rightfully deserves even more.

Khorasan Province, which due to the blessings of His Holiness 'Ali bin-Musa Reza's shrine is endowed with spiritual as well as economic strength, has immense mineral and industrial potential and a talented workforce, as well as inexpensive energy resources. In conjunction with the opening of the northern borders, the entry of millions of pilgrims every year has transformed Mashhad into one of Iran's major cities and national investment in this province has greatly increased.

Khorasan is no longer a blind alley and has become the hub of foreign trade between Iran and Central Asia with its market of 300 million people.

In conclusion, we hope that the inauguration of important and basic projects such as the Bojnurd petrochemicals and the Esfarayen foundry will enable the economy of Khorasan Province to flourish more each day and will result in greater development and prosperity.

Nepal & Bhutan

Nepal: Japan Provides Grant as Debt Relief Measure

OW1807141096 Tokyo KYODO in English 1225 GMT 18 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kathmandu, July 18 KYODO — Japan has agreed to grant Nepal 5 million dollars as a debt relief measure, the Nepalese government announced Thursday [18 July].

The grant, given in lieu of repayment of the principal and the accrued interest on the outstanding Japanese loan to the Nepalese government, will be used for procurement of development goods, the announcement added.

Nepal: Government Reportedly Unable To Control Indian Border Trade

BK1507111096 Kathmandu THE KATHMANDU POST in English 15 Jul 96

[Report by Prateek Pradhan—received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KATHMANDU, July 14 — The government's latest decision to hike the prices of petrol and diesel due to the increase in the rate of petroleum products in India, has being considered less a compulsion of open border and more an inability to control cross border trading.

With the latest increase in the price of petroleum products people have suffered two consecutive hikes in the span of just 3 months. The first hike on April 4th came, as justified by the government, due to the gradual devaluation of the Nepalese currency vis a vis US dollar and the rise in the oil price in international market. But, the second hike was absolutely unnecessary.

The second price hike in petrol and diesel could have been prevented if the government had not gone for the easiest solution. Even the Supply Secretary, while talking to The Kathmandu Post, immediately after the price hike of petro products in India, had said that it

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

was not necessary to increase their price in Nepal as there were various measures to correct the problem. But without exploring any options the government took the easy and blunt decision to raise the price of petroleum products.

This price rise is bound to effect consumer goods. Nepali consumers are hard hit in two fronts due to price rise of petroleum products in India and Nepal. As Nepal's one third import is from India alone, the price rise in petroleum products in India is bound to have its effect on Nepalese consumers too.

Though government has tried to save the face by claiming that the recent hike would not affect the consumer price index, the business circle has taken the price rise as very unfavourable for Nepal. The President of Federation of Nepalese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Padma Jyoti had commented on price rise in India as "very unfortunate for Nepal". He forecast that the hike would increase Nepalese consumer goods' price by more than ten percent. However, Jyoti and his Federation still have to comment on recent price hike in petroleum products.

Following the new pricing, the government is yet to announce how much money Nepal Oil Corporation [NOC] is making out of it. However with the data presented by the corporation during the last hike—when it said it would incur about Rs [rupees] 100 million loss in the previous price of petrol per litre 31 and diesel per litre 12.5—it can be said that NOC will be hardly in loss with the current hike. And, if the management is strengthened it may even earn a sizable profit.

With this hike it has been proved that Nepalese market is affected not only by the price rise in international market, but also with the price rise in India, despite the fact that Nepal imports diesel and kerosene from international market and submits it to India and gets all range of petroleum products in a fixed price for six months.

Nepal: NRMA Denounces 15 Percent Sales Tax

BK1507115396 Kathmandu THE KATHMANDU POST in English 15 Jul 96

[Received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KATHMANDU, JULY 14—The Nepal Rolling Mill Association (NRMA) in its reaction on the budget presented by finance minister Dr Ram Sharan Mahat for Fiscal Year 2053/54 BS, has said that iron-related industries are likely to close down due to 50 percent increment in sales tax on iron products.

According to the new budget, sales tax on iron products have been increased from the present 10 percent to 15 percent which will further push up the prices on iron products, NRMA said in a statement issued today.

Weak evaluation of imported ready made goods and the goods illegally imported from foreign countries have made it difficult for indigenous goods to compete with them, the statement says. Government's decision to increase sales tax has astounded the iron-related businessmen, the statement added.

"Due to limited market, over expenses on transport fare, small scale entrepreneurs have been entangled in a whirlpool of trouble. The government's negligence on forming a task force to study VAT [value-added tax] in detail has been further pushed back and setting the date for registering VAT has further pushed the businessmen into crisis. It has also discouraged the existing business and foreign investment in the country", the NRMA said in the statement.

Pakistan

Pakistan: Spokesman—CTBT Signing To Be Guided by National Interests

BK1807142396 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1400 GMT 18 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that a decision to sign or not to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty would be taken at an appropriate time, taking fully into account Pakistan's security concerns. Briefing newsmen, the spokesman said the final text of the treaty and the position of other countries, especially nuclear weapon states and other nuclear capable states, would also be taken into account. Answering questions, he said Pakistan's own national interests will guide a decision on the treaty. He said Pakistan does not wish to sign a treaty which has loopholes and pointed out that if the treaty cannot stop any country from conducting nuclear tests, it was certainly a loophole.

To another question, the spokesman said Pakistan has not received any proposal from the United States linking its help to resolve Kashmir dispute with the signing of Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

Pakistan: Islamabad To Oppose Change in CTBT Articles

BK1807122196 Islamabad THE NATION in English 18 Jul 96 pp 1, 11

[Report by Fahd Husain]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ISLAMABAD—Pakistan will oppose any change or dilution in the article of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) which says

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

that the Entry into Force will only take place if five nuclear and the three threshold powers sign it because the principle attraction of the CTBT for Pakistan is that it should prohibit India from further nuclear tests, say official sources.

As regards the Entry-into-Force (EIF) of the treaty, three different approaches have been suggested. First advocates EIF as soon as a minimum number of states (40) have signed and ratified the treaty; second, when a minimum number including the five nuclear powers have done so; and third when a certain number including the five nuclear powers and the three "threshold" states (Israel, India and Pakistan) have signed and ratified. Pakistan has supported the last one to ensure that India does not have an escape route to be exempt from the treaty.

With negotiations of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) all set to resume on July 29, there are no indications that India will drop its opposition to the treaty even as Pakistan continues to deliberate whether the present draft should be acceptable or whether it should continue to press for further improvements.

The main opposition to the treaty — which aims to ban all nuclear testing — comes from India. Its attitude towards the CTBT changed after the indefinite extension of the Non-Proliferation Treaty last year. Ironically, it was the Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru who had first proposed the CTBT in 1954. When the Conference on Disarmament started in January 1996, India had demanded that CTBT negotiations be opened simultaneously with the establishment of an Adhoc committee on Nuclear Disarmament. Later, India also proposed some amendments with stronger references to nuclear disarmament but these were ignored by the nuclear powers. Ever since negotiations for the CTBT were opened in the Geneva Conference on Disarmament in early 1994, wide differences have emerged between states on issues like the scope of the treaty and on the verification regime. Sharp differences have also arisen on the question of nuclear disarmament and the conditions for the Entry-into-Force of the Treaty.

Initially, the five nuclear powers known as P-5 (United States, Russia, China, Britain and France) wanted an exception on the complete test ban for safety and reliability test. Various proposals in this regard were floated by them but these received stiff resistance from the Non-Aligned countries who wanted to ban all nuclear tests. Pakistan had floated a proposal (which has been partially accepted) that the nuclear powers undertake in the Treaty's preamble to stop the qualitative development of nuclear weapons.

The verification and on-site inspection of tests has also been beset by problems. It has been proposed that the monitoring of the explosion ban would be monitored through an "International Monitoring System" (IMS) consisting of seismic stations (to detect underground nuclear explosions), radio nuclide monitoring stations (to detect atmospheric testing), infra-sound monitoring stations (to supplement monitoring of atmospheric tests) and hydro-acoustic monitors (to detect underwater tests). Pakistan and other nonaligned states have emphasized that all states should have equal access to information.

On the issue of on-site inspections, disagreements have emerged. While the nuclear Powers argue that these inspections should be launched quickly and could only be stopped by a two-thirds majority in the 51-member Executive Council. China, Pakistan and India have stated that the inspections should only, be a "rare" event and should be launched only if approved by a two-thirds majority of the Executive Council.

Officials here say that Pakistan's aim is to ensure that the treaty does not come into force if India does not become a party to it. The negotiations will continue.

Pakistan: CTBT Signature Subject To 'Retention of 2 Major Provisions'

BK1807132996 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 18 Jul 96 pp 1, 11

[Report by Anwar Khalil]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ISLAMABAD July 17 — Pakistan is seriously considering to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) even if India opts to remain out. This was indicated by knowledgeable diplomatic sources here on Wednesday [17 July].

According to these sources, Pakistan will sign subject to retention of two major provisions in the final draft which it considers crucial. One provision relates to Entry-in-Force (EIF) of the Treaty after all 8 nuclear capable states have signed and ratified. The other provision is about the onsite inspection (OSI). Pakistan supports that the OSI could be launched only if supported by a two-third majority of the 51-member Executive Council.

No explanation was immediately available of the compulsions to change Pakistan's known stand on the question that had profound security implications particularly at a time, when the country was facing difficulties in acquiring new weapon systems to maintain a credible conventional defense capability. However, diplomatic observers note that for the first time Pakistan is thinking to de-link itself from the India stand on major issue

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

like signing the CTBT. Traditionally, Pakistan has insisted on signing after India.

Observers here point out that the new "thinking" being developed on CTBT seems to have emerged in the wake of a flurry of messages from the US to Pakistani leaders and diplomatic activity which reached its peak with the arrival in Pakistan of ambassador Frank Wisner in a rather unusual manner and to camp here and meet a wide range of leadership to discuss CTBT. He was reported to have told journalists in Islamabad that "we have told India that it is time to get CTBT, as nuclear test will set the world off". "It would be interesting to know what the Americans told Pakistan on CTBT", the observers thought.

According to knowledgeable diplomatic sources in the capital, the principal attraction for Pakistan is that it should prohibit India from any further nuclear tests. At the CTBT negotiations in Geneva, Pakistan's concern has been that India should not have an "escape route" whereby it could be exempted from adherence to CTBT, these sources pointed out. However, diplomatic observers here say that this cannot be achieved merely by insisting on retention of certain provisions in the final draft. An option to declare itself exempt from the Treaty was always available to India and its Foreign Minister just did that when he declared in parliament on Monday [15 July] that "if other countries reach a consensus, then that is their decision" alluding that India would in no way feel obliged to abide by a Treaty finalized without its participation and consent. The Indian Foreign Minister made it very clear that Indian security concerns take precedence over everything that India would like to keep its options open.

Knowledgeable diplomatic sources say that by insisting on including a time-bound nuclear disarmament framework in the Treaty, India was trying to block the Treaty and remain free to undertake a second nuclear explosion. They point out that India is simply saying that we are not interested in a CTBT and will have nothing to do with it.

Pakistan, on the other hand, says that we want the Treaty but we have problems with some provisions and want to sort these out through discussions. According to diplomatic observers, there may be some merit in trying to present Pakistan as the good boy of South Asia but what would happen if the bad boy chooses to create trouble for us? They point out that the conventional wisdom has been to have a credible deterrence capability to beat back aggression. This is an option which has worked to the great advantage of Pakistan. By unilaterally signing the CTBT, we would foreclose many options, the deterrence option not being the least" observers point out and add: "The fissionable material production cut off convention would soon follow the signing of CTBT and if we had signed the CTBT, we would be left with little reason not to sign".

On the question of OSI, there are many misgivings all of which may not be covered by the proposed improvements in the relevant provisions. China has declared that it would not sign an unequal treaty" that gave "one very advanced country" to launch nuclear inspections [sentence as published]. In a unipolar world where the West is promoting the concept of a military super power, or to quote Margaret Thatcher, "a military power of the last resort" to keep the world in order, the OSI provisions of the CTBT are simply frightening, say diplomatic observers. They point out that these powers are insisting on keeping the "red light" approach to launch OSI where-by an inspection would be launched quickly to verify any "suspicious" event on request of a state party and could be stopped only if a two-third majority of the 51-member Executive Council decides against it.

The "green light" approach argued by Pakistan and many other countries has not been fully accepted in the latest draft in circulation, observers noted. The proposal makes it mandatory that to launch an OSI, a two-third majority will have to decide in favor of a request by a State Party.

The line-up for and against the proposed changes is also interesting. With Russia, China, Pakistan, Egypt and Israel arguing in favor of "green light" approach and the US and its Western allies resisting, there is very little chance that the final draft would reflect some kind of equality and balance. Another interesting, rather ironical fact about CTBT is that it was proposed 40 years ago by Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and until end of 1992. [incomplete sentence as published]

[Hong Kong AFP in English at 1126 GMT on 18 July reports that officials in Islamabad said on Thursday that "Pakistan is keeping its options open" on signing the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

AFP reports that a Pakistani Foreign Office spokesman told a press briefing that a decision to sign or not to sign the CTBT would be made at the appropriate time.

AFP adds: "Pakistan would make a decision 'taking fully into account its security concerns, official text of the treaty and the positions of nuclear weapons states and other nuclear capable states,' the spokesman said.

"He denied as 'misleading' a local newspaper report that Pakistan might sign the CTBT 'unilaterally,' irrespec-

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

tive of the position of India, which has said it would not sign unless the accord addressed its security concerns.

"Asked to explain Pakistani concerns, the spokesman said the CTBT should not leave any 'loopholes,' stressing that all nuclear-capable countries 'must come on board.'

"The spokesman said Pakistan would reply 'quite soon' to a letter from US President Bill Clinton to Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto seeking Islamabad's 'cooperation' in the CTBT negotiations."]

Pakistan: Foreign Office Denies Claims of Taleban Defector

BK1807152396 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 17 Jul 96 p 12

[Report by Rahimullah Yusufzai]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Peshawar — The slight improvement in relations between the Pakistan and Afghan governments in recent months may receive a setback in the wake of allegations by a defecting Afghan pilot Tuesday [16 July] that Islamabad was assisting the Taleban.

'Abdol Jalil, who flew his Russian built MiG-21 jetfighter from the Taleban-held Kandahar airport and announced his defection to the Afghan government base, alleged in his press conference in Kabul that technicians had helped repair and maintain Taleban aircraft at Kandahar airport.

According to BBC Pashto service, the 28-year old pilot said the main reason for his defection was Islamabad's interference in Afghan affairs and its support for Taleban.

The Pakistan government has consistently denied Rabbani government allegations that it helped create the Taleban Islamic movement and was providing it with arms and money. But pilot Jalil's defection and his allegations against Pakistan is certainty going to provide ammunition to the Kabul regime to criticize Islamabad's interventionist Afghan policy.

Relations between Islamabad and Kabul deteriorated when the Pakistan embassy in the Afghan capital was burnt down by a mob apparently mobilized by the Rabbani regime, on September 6 last year. The incident, in which a staffer of the mission was killed and several more sustained injuries, took place a day after the fall of the strategically sited Herat city to Taleban. Pakistan's assertions that it had nothing to do with Taleban's military achievements in Herat and elsewhere in western and southwestern Afghanistan fell on deaf ears in Kabul.

The visit by an Afghan ministerial team to Islamabad a few months ago and its decision to send a delegation to Kabul to attend Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar's swearing-in ceremony recently helped improve ties between the two governments and there was a discernible effort to reduce propaganda against each other. The state of their relations may enter another uncertain period as now Kabul for the first time has some proof of Islamabad's involvement in the affairs of Afghanistan.

[Hong Kong AFP in English at 1326 GMT on 18 July reported that Pakistan on Thursday [18 July] dismissed the Taleban pilot's allegations.

AFP reports: "The accusations 'are totally baseless and unfounded,' a foreign office spokesman told reporters here.

"Pakistan has repeatedly stressed its neutrality and has not provided aircraft or any military assistance to warring factions' in Afghanistan, the spokesman said."

AFP adds: "The Taleban planes are stated to be Russian-made which Pakistan does not possess, hence provision of spare parts or technical expertise by Pakistan does not arise,' the spokesman said."

"It is a malicious attempt to create differences between Pakistan and Afghanistan people,' he added."]

Pakistan: Ministries Studying Phased Free Trade With India

BK1807135196 Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 17 Jul 96 pp 1, 12

[Report by Amanullah Bashar]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi — The Finance and the Commerce ministries, after going through all pros and cons have identified some safe areas for two-way trade with India without hurting the interest of the local industry, it is reliably learnt.

Both the ministries which are actively studying all aspects of the issue of opening trade with India giving to MFN [most favored nation] status and other countries in the region are about to finalize a formula which will be implemented in phases, if approved, sources said.

Sources were of the view that if all cards were played intelligently, the formula of trade would enable our export oriented manufacturing sector to have access to a large marker paving the way for hitting our export target of 10 billion dollars for the current financial year.

Businessmen and industrialists, however, have a different perception on the issue. The manufacturing sector has some apprehensions about entering into trade with

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

India mainly because of the large volume of production and low prices in that country.

One of the leading industrialists, emotionally charged, recalled the days when India had betrayed Pakistan in the early days of its inception by declining to supply the needed commodities. Inspite of a five-year agreement for maintaining supplies to Pakistan, India had backed out of the commitment because it had evil designs against the stability of Pakistan, but now when Pakistan stood on sound footing it wanted to have a share in the cake, he remarked.

Another industrialist was of the view that we had been careless in signing GATT agreement and submitting to the World Trade Organization (WTO) Free trade with India which had already come into operation since January 1, 1995, without making any study of its impacts. "It will harm on our economy, which is still building up its infrastructure" he said.

Now, under WTO, "We are suddenly being pushed into the global free market arena where we will have to face the developed countries having inherent advantages with a strong industrial culture", he bemoaned.

Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka: Police Arrest 2 LTTE 'Top Operatives' in Colombo

BK1607035896 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 16 Jul 96

[Report by Sarath Malalasekera — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Police on Sunday [14 July] arrested two more Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE] cadres in Colombo. The pair is believed to be top operatives collecting intelligence for the Tigers.

The woman Tiger was arrested on Sunday in Bambalapitiya, according to reports. To conceal her terrorist activities, she had operated as a teacher in Colombo providing tuition in Tamil to children in the Bambalapitiya area. The woman Tiger was due to leave for Vavuniya on Monday [15 July].

Her husband, a small time businessman, was also arrested on Sunday in Dehiwela.

According to police sources, the police have uncovered more information, following the July 12 arrest of the suicide bomber Moses and the recovery of a massive haul of explosives from a house at Hampden Lane, Wellawatte.

This safe house had been constantly used to communicate with the International LTTE headquarters, police reports also confirmed.

The driver assigned to carry out the task of transporting the LTTE cadres to the respective attack sites with the explosives had been sent to Colombo on the instructions of LTTE Intelligence Bureau Chief 'Pottu Amman,' investigators said.

It has been found that the main target had been the new Central Bank Complex at Rajagiriya, just outside Colombo City limits. The van recovered by the police is alleged to have been purchased for Rs [rupees] 500,000. This vehicle had been purchased in the hope of transporting the bomb to the Central Bank complex. Police sources also said that the suicide bomber had bought a motorcycle to get about his business.

Investigations had also revealed that the 100 kilos of explosives had been brought from the North to Colombo in small quantities from time to time since December last year.

Sri Lanka: LTTE Accuses Troops of Shooting on Civilians in Jaffna

BK1207120496 (Internet) Tamil Eelam News WWW in Tamil 11 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A military security post was attacked by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE] at Mukamalai locality in Thenmarachchi the day before yesterday. Sri Lankan sources say that one soldier was killed and a few others injured in the hand grenade attack.

A vehicle in which policemen were traveling was wrecked in an LTTE landmine attack in Polonnaruwa yesterday. Only three policemen are reported to have been traveling in the vehicle.

A civilian, who was an eyewitness to the Stanley Road bomb attack on 4 July and who escaped with minor injuries in the shooting by troops, stated that during the bomb attack, the troops resorted to indiscriminate shooting all around and that a few civilians were killed and more than 50 injured. He also said that the troops, who started running in panic during the bomb blast, were shooting indiscriminately and aimlessly for some minutes and that the people running for their lives were hit by bullets and collapsed on the streets. Eleven civilians were reportedly killed in the incident.

The military has imposed a night curfew in Jaffna city. The military has announced that the curfew will be in force from 2000 hours in the night to 0500 in the morning. Simultaneously, certain roads in the Jaffna peninsula have also been banned for public use. The Navatkuli-Kerativu road is also reported to be one among the banned roads. The imposition of a curfew and the ban on road use have come into force from 8

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

July. The military says that the bomb attack, which was carried out in broad daylight after the maximum security setup was penetrated, is the reason for the imposition of a night curfew and the ban on road use.

Incidents of Tamils being arrested in Colombo City are on the increase again. Reports from Colombo say that more than 100 Tamils have been arrested during the past 10 days. It is stated that the areas in Colombo where Tamils live in abundance are subjected to surprise searches and that the whereabouts of those arrested without reason are not known. The aforementioned report says that the Tamils are being arrested because of the fear of the Sri Lankan Government that the LTTE might attack the capital on the eve of the Black July carnage committed by Sinhalese racists.

The Sri Lankan economy is facing a major crisis. It is learned that this financial crisis is causing unprecedented strain on the government. The expenditure on war is constantly on the increase. It is stated that a situation will emerge wherein 100,000 workers will lose their jobs this year due to economic constraints. Pointing to the fact that this sort of crisis has not been witnessed by any other country, opposition leader Ranil Wickremasinghe charges that the Chandrika Kumaratunga government is fully responsible.

Thanks.

The Tigers's aspiration: the motherland of Tamil Eelam!

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.